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GRAND CHAPTER
OF
PENNSYLVANIA.

1873

PENNSYLVANIA.

ABSTRACT OF THE PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

Grand Holy Royal Arch Chapter

OF

PENNSYLVANIA,

AND MASONIC JURISDICTION THEREUNTO BELONGING,

FOR THE YEAR

A. D. 1873. A. I. 2403.

PHILADELPHIA:

PRINTED FOR THE GRAND CHAPTER OF PENNSYLVANIA,

BY JAMES E. KRYDER, No. 32 SOUTH SEVENTH STREET.

1874.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

The Proceedings of 1873 are paged to follow those of 1872,
making *Part Third*, which completes the volume for binding.

JOHN THOMSON,
Grand Secretary.



Grand Holy Royal Arch Chapter OF PENNSYLVANIA.

QUARTERLY GRAND COMMUNICATION,

Held at Philadelphia, February 6, A. D. 1873, A. I. 2403.

Companion CHARLES E. MEYER, *Most Excellent Grand High Priest*, presiding.

A petition was read for a warrant for a new Chapter, to be called Tristram B. Freeman Chapter, No. 243, to be held in Kensington; which was referred to the Grand Officers, with power to act.

A communication was read from Companion George L. McCahan, Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Maryland, appointing Companion Andrew Robeno, Jr., Grand Representative of said Grand Chapter near the Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania; which, on motion, was received, and Companion Robeno, Jr., acknowledged as said Representative.

The Most Excellent Grand High Priest announced in feeling terms the decease of Past Grand High Priest Companion DAVID C. SKERRETT. The Grand Chapter room was directed to be draped in mourning for six months in respect to his memory, and a com-

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mittee appointed to prepare resolutions expressive of the feelings of the Grand Chapter in their great loss.

The Grand Chapter of Nova Scotia was duly recognized, and Companion Past Grand High Priest Michael Nisbet was recognized as Representative of said Grand Chapter.

The Most Excellent Grand High Priest reported that since the last Quarterly Grand Communication he had sequestered the warrant of Chapter No. 178, for gross unmasonic conduct.

On motion, the action of the Grand High Priest was approved, and the warrant of said Chapter was suspended.

EXTRA GRAND COMMUNICATION,

Held April 3, A. D. 1873, A. I. 2403.

Companion CHARLES E. MEYER, *Most Excellent Grand High Priest*, presiding.

The Grand Officers were appointed a Committee to contract for an organ for the Grand Chapter Room, New Masonic Temple.

A petition was received for a warrant for a Chapter to meet at Sharon, Mercer county, to be called Norman Chapter, No. 244; which was referred to the Grand Officers, with power to act.

QUARTERLY GRAND COMMUNICATION,

Held May 1, A. D. 1873, A. I. 2403.

Companion CHARLES E. MEYER, *Most Excellent Grand High Priest*, presiding.

Companion George Griscom, Past Grand High Priest, read a very interesting memorial on the death of Past Grand High Priest Companion DAVID C. SKERRETT, and closed with offering a series of resolutions, which were unanimously adopted.

The Most Excellent Grand High Priest announced the death of the Grand King of the Grand Chapter, Companion JOHN WILSON, Jr., and, in an eloquent address, gave a very highly eulogistic sketch of his Masonic virtues and works. Companion Past Grand High Priest Michael Nisbet offered a series of resolutions, which, with the address of the Most Excellent Grand High Priest, were ordered to be printed, and the Chapters and Mark Lodges under this jurisdiction were directed to drape their jewels in mourning for the space of six months.

Petitions were received for the restoration of the warrant of Chapter No. 178; which were referred to the Grand Officers, with power to act.

QUARTERLY GRAND COMMUNICATION,

Held August 7, A. D. 1873, A. I. 2403.

Companion CHARLES E. MEYER, *Most Excellent Grand High Priest*, presiding.

A communication was received from Companion C. F. G. Collins, Most Excellent Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Wisconsin, appointing Companion Past High Priest Horace Fritz, Representative of the said Grand Chapter.

On motion, the said communication was received, and Companion Fritz acknowledged as the Representative of the Grand Chapter of Wisconsin near the Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania.

The Grand High Priest stated that on June 24, 1873, accompanied by the Most Excellent Grand Scribe and Deputy Grand Secretary, he had visited Catawissa, and revived Chapter No. 178, and installed the officers.

On motion, the Grand Secretary was ordered to notify the Chapters of this jurisdiction of the above action.

EXTRA GRAND COMMUNICATION,

Held September 29, A. D. 1873, A. I. 2403.

The New Masonic Temple, at the northeast corner of Broad and Filbert streets, Philadelphia, having been dedicated to Masonry by the Right Worshipful Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, on Friday, September 26, 1873, this day was selected by the Most Excellent Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania, Companion Charles E. Meyer, for the purpose of dedicating that portion appropriated to the purposes of Royal Arch Masonry.

The following distinguished Companions, of this and other jurisdictions, were present, and assisted in the ceremonies, to wit:

GRAND CHAPTER OF PENNSYLVANIA.

Comp. CHARLES E. MEYER,	.	<i>M. E. Grand High Priest.</i>
" ANDREW ROBENO, JR.,	.	<i>M. E. Grand King, acting.</i>
" MICHAEL NISBET,	.	<i>M. E. Grand Scribe, p. t.</i>
" GEORGE W. WOOD,	^{P. G. H. P.}	<i>M. E. Grand Treasurer, p. t.</i>
" JOHN THOMSON,	^{P. G. H. P.}	<i>M. E. Grand Secretary.</i>
" ROBERT H. PATTISON,	.	<i>Grand Captain of the Host.</i>
" GEORGE E. WAGNER,	.	<i>Grand Principal Sojourner.</i>
" JOSEPH S. GEORGE,	.	<i>Grand R. A. Captain.</i>
" ISAAC MUFF,	.	<i>Grand Master of 3d Vail.</i>
" CHARLES H. KINGSTON,	.	<i>Grand Master of 2d Vail.</i>
" GEO. W. KENDRICK, JR.,	.	<i>Grand Master of 1st Vail.</i>
" EDWARD MASSON,	.	<i>Grand Marshal.</i>
" DEWEES J. MARTIN, M. D.	.	<i>S. G. Master of Ceremonies.</i>
" THOMAS R. PATTON,	.	<i>J. G. Master of Ceremonies.</i>
" JOHN L. YOUNG,	.	<i>Grand Pursuivant.</i>
" CHARLES SCHNIDER,	.	<i>Grand Tyler.</i>

Grand Chaplains.

Comp. JOHN CHAMBERS,	Comp. WILLIAM C. ROBINSON,
“ ALEXANDER M. WIGGINS,	“ GEO. W. MACLAUGHLIN,
“ WILLIAM B. WOOD,	“ THOMAS J. DAVIS,
“ LEIGHTON COLEMAN,	“ JAMES MACGOWAN,
“ DANIEL WASHBURN,	“ THOMAS A. FERNLEY.

Past Grand High Priests.

Comp. JOSEPH S. RILEY,	Comp. DANIEL THOMPSON,
“ SAMUEL H. PERKINS,	“ JEREMIAH L. HUTCHINSON,
“ JAMES SIMPSON,	“ GEORGE W. WOOD,
“ EDWARD P. LESCURE,	“ SAMUEL C. PERKINS,
“ HARMAN BAUGH,	“ GEORGE GRISCOM,
“ JOHN C. SMITH,	“ MICHAEL NISBET.

District Deputy Grand High Priests.

Comp. CHARLES M. HOWELL,	Comp. C. F. KNAPP,
“ JOSEPH S. EVANS,	“ GEORGE S. SNYDER,
“ R. H. THOMAS,	“ C. R. EARLEY,
“ JOSEPH L. LEMBERGER,	“ EDWARD H. TURNER,
“ H. A. WILTBERGER,	“ WILLIAM CHATLAND,
“ T. S. HILLARD,	“ GETER C. SHIDLE,
“ JOHN H. DUSENBURY,	“ SAMUEL BROWN, JR.,
“ R. C. SIMPSON,	“ GEORGE P. OWEN.

MASSACHUSETTS.

Comp. Alfred F. Chapman,	.	Grand High Priest.
“ A. St. John Chambre,	.	Deputy Grand High Priest.
“ J. K. Baker,	..	Grand King.
“ F. G. Walbridge,	.	Grand Scribe.
“ George S. Noyes,	.	Grand Treasurer.
“ Z. H. Thomas, Jr.,	.	Grand Secretary.
“ William Parkman,	.	Grand Chaplain.
“ D. E. Chase,	..	D. D. Grand High Priest.
“ Tracy B. Cheever,	..	D. D. Grand High Priest.
“ John Dean,	..	D. D. Grand High Priest.

RHODE ISLAND.

Comp. F. G. Jillson,	.	Grand High Priest.
“ G. F. Swartz,	.	Grand Treasurer.
“ G. H. Burnham,	.	Grand Secretary.
Comps. N. Van Slyck and N. W. Aldrich.		

NEW YORK.

Comp. Thomas C. Cassidy,	.	Grand High Priest.
“ John W. Simons,	.	Past Grand High Priest.
Comps. G. Fred. Wiltsie and James Byron Murray.		

MARYLAND.

Comp. George L. McCahan,	.	Grand High Priest.
“ James W. Bowers,	.	Deputy Grand High Priest.
“ Herman L. Emmons,	.	Grand King.
“ Charles F. Achey,	.	Grand Scribe.
“ Frederick Woodworth,	.	Grand Treasurer.
“ William A. Wentz,	.	Grand Secretary.
“ Edward A. Shultz,	.	P. D. G. H. P. and G. R.

NEW JERSEY.

Comp. F. G. Wiese,	.	Deputy Grand High Priest.
“ Thomas J. Corson,	.	Grand Secretary.
“ I. Layton Register,	.	Grand Treasurer.

SOUTH CAROLINA.

Comp. Augustine T. Smythe,	.	Deputy Grand High Priest.
“ G. T. Berg,	.	Grand King.

OHIO.

Comp. John D. Caldwell,	.	Grand Secretary.
Comps. Thomas J. Mellish and B. F. Reed.		

CONNECTICUT.

Comps. L. C. Hanford and Edward Street.

ILLINOIS.

MISSOURI.

Comp. Robert Bingham Smith.		Comp. William Bosbyshell.
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IOWA.

Comp. Theodore Sutton Parvin,	.	Past Grand High Priest.
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GEORGIA.

Comp. Marcus Weil, proxy.

WISCONSIN.

Comp. John C. Brooker,	.	Grand King.
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DELAWARE.

Comp. George W. Stone,	.	Grand High Priest.
“ J. W. Causey,	.	Deputy Grand High Priest.
“ H. B. McIntyre,	.	Grand Scribe.
“ S. A. Hodgman,	.	Grand Treasurer.
“ John P. Allman,	.	Grand Secretary.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

Comp. A. F. Longly,	Grand High Priest.
" Noble D. Larner,	Deputy Grand High Priest.
" J. L. Johnson,	Grand King.
" A. Wall,	Grand Scribe.
" L. G. Stevens,	Grand Secretary.
" C. Smith,	Grand Treasurer.
Comps. Charles F. Stansbury and J. B. Gibbs.	

WEST VIRGINIA.

Comp. Thomas H. Logan, . . . Grand High Priest.

The dedication took place about 5 o'clock P. M., with the usual solemn, impressive and imposing ceremonies, by Companion Charles E. Meyer, the Most Excellent Grand High Priest, assisted by his Grand Officers, and in a manner that was highly satisfactory to all present. After the ceremonies, the Grand Chapter was opened, and complimentary remarks were made by Companion Caldwell, of Ohio, and others.



QUARTERLY GRAND COMMUNICATION,

Held November 7, A. D. 1873, A. I. 2403.

Companion CHARLES E. MEYER, *Most Excellent Grand High Priest*, presiding.

Thirty-two Chapters represented.

The resignation of Companion Thomas Brown, Grand Treasurer, was received.

A petition was received for a warrant for a Chapter to be called Abington Chapter, No. 245, to meet at Jenkintown, Montgomery county; which was referred to the Grand Officers, with power to act.

This being the night of the annual election, the Grand High Priest, Companion Charles E. Meyer, declined a re-election, and appointed tellers, who reported that the following Companions were elected as officers of the Grand Chapter for the ensuing Masonic year, beginning on St. John's Day next:

Comp. ANDREW ROBENO, JR.,	.	<i>M. E. Grand High Priest.</i>
" ROBERT H. PATTISON, .	.	<i>M. E. Grand King.</i>
" GEORGE E. WAGNER, .	.	<i>M. E. Grand Scribe.</i>
" THOMAS R. PATTON, .	.	<i>M. E. Grand Treasurer.</i>
" JOHN THOMSON, .	.	<i>M. E. Grand Secretary.</i>

The following amendment to the Constitution was adopted, to wit: Add to Section 47, "Except in the city and county of Philadelphia, where the fee for the Mark Master's degree shall not be less than \$5; for the Most Excellent Master's degree, not less than \$10; and for the Royal Arch degree, not less than \$10."

The Finance Committee made the following report: That they had examined the account of the Most Excellent Grand Treasurer from November 5, 1872, to October 29, 1873,—Companion Thomas Brown having resigned the office of Grand Treasurer on that date,—and the accounts of the Most Excellent Grand Secretary from November 5, 1872, to October 31, 1873, and find them to agree with their vouchers; showing a balance of \$160.19 in the hands of Companion John Thomson, acting Grand Treasurer. We have also examined the accounts of the Grand High Priest for current expenses during the year, as well for expenses incident to the dedication of the Grand Chapter room, and find them correct, agreeing with his vouchers.

The Receipts of the Grand Chapter for the fiscal year commencing November 4, 1872, and ending October 31, 1873, have been as follows:

Dues and fees from Chapters,	\$4,343 69
" " Mark Lodges,	483 30
Sale of Constitutions,	87 00
" Certificates,	18 00
Reprint of Proceedings,	1 00
New warrants,	200 00
Interest on investments,	1,196 83
Balance on hand,	1,933 27
 Total,	 \$8,263 09

The Expenses have been as follows:

Expenses of M. E. Grand High Priest, . .	\$1,350 00
" D. D. Grand High Priests, . .	230 75
Rent for 1872,	80 00
Printing Annual Proceedings,	699 76
" notices,	55 00
Office expenses Grand High Priest, . .	45 39
" Grand Secretary, . .	10 75
Reorganizing Chapter No. 178, . .	25 00
Stationery, postage, &c., for 1872, . .	148 98
Funeral of P. G. H. P. Skerrett, . .	188 30
Draping room,	20 00
Book of checks,	15 00
Insurance,	15 00
Salaries, Grand Secretary, 1873, . .	750 00
" F. Blackburn, 1872, . .	75 09
" " 1873, . .	300 00
" C. Schnider,	56 30
Invested,	1,700 00
Dedication expenses,	873 67
Organ, on account,	1,500 00
 Total,	 \$8,102 90 8,102 90
 Leaving a balance in hand of	 \$160 19

The Committee present the following estimate of receipts and expenditures for the ensuing year:

Receipt of dues and fees,	\$5,000 00
New warrants,	300 00
Interest on investment,	1,241 00
Balance of cash on hand,	160 19
 Total,	 \$6,701 19

Brought forward, \$6,701 19

Expenditures.

Balance due on organ,	. . . . .	\$1,350 00
Rent for 1873,	. . . . .	685 00
" 1874,	. . . . .	2,500 00
Salaries,	. . . . .	1,100 00
Expenses of Grand High Priest, 1874,	. . . . .	500 00
" D. D. Grand High Priests, 1874,	. . . . .	225 00
Annual Proceedings and printing,	. . . . .	400 00
Expenses of Grand Chapter, stationery, postage, &c.,	. . . . .	250 00
		<hr/>
		\$7,010 00
		<hr/>

Showing an apparent deficiency for the year of about \$310 00, which it is hoped will be realized from an increase in the amount of our receipts, over and above our estimate.

Under the Constitution, a Chapter may neglect or refuse to pay its dues for two years without incurring any penalty. We would recommend such an alteration as will compel all Chapters and Mark Lodges to pay their dues within one year after they accrue, and therefore offer an amendment to the Constitution on the subject.

The Committee offer the following:

Resolved, That the following appropriations be made for the year 1874:

Expenses of M. E. Grand High Priest,	. . . . .	\$500 00
" D. D. Grand High Priests,	. . . . .	225 00
Rent for 1873,	. . . . .	685 00
" 1874,	. . . . .	2,500 00
Salaries,	. . . . .	1,100 00
Printing, including Annual Proceedings,	. . . . .	400 00
Current expenses, stationery, postage, &c.,	. . . . .	250 00
		<hr/>
		\$5,660 00
To which add balance on organ,	. . . . .	1,350 00
		<hr/>
		\$7,010 00

Resolved, That the Most Excellent Grand High Priest be and he is hereby authorized to draw his warrants on the Most Excellent Grand Treasurer for the above amounts as they become due.

Resolved, That Section 78, on page 50, of the Constitution be amended, by striking out in the fourth line the word "the" before dues, and words "of two years" immediately following dues, and inserting "three months after the receipt of its return," so as to read "and any Chapter or Lodge in arrears for dues three months after the receipt of its return, shall be notified thereof."

Grand Holy Royal Arch Chapter OF PENNSYLVANIA.

ANNUAL GRAND COMMUNICATION,

Held December 27, A. D. 1873, A. I. 2403.

Companion CHARLES E. MEYER, *Most Excellent Grand High Priest*, presiding.

Present:

Comp. CHARLES E. MEYER, -	-	<i>M. E. Grand High Priest.</i>
" ANDREW ROBENO, JR.,	-	<i>M. E. Grand King.</i>
" GEORGE W. WOOD,	-	<i>M. E. Grand Scribe, p. t.</i>
	P. G. H. P.	
" ED. MATHEWS, -	-	<i>M. E. Grand Treas., p. t.</i>
" JOHN THOMSON, -	-	<i>M. E. Grand Secretary.</i>
" J. ALEXANDER SIMPSON,	-	<i>Deputy Grand Secretary.</i>
" GEORGE P. OWEN,	-	<i>D. D. Grand High Priest.</i>
" ROBERT H. PATTISON,	-	<i>Grand Captain of the Host.</i>
" GEORGE E. WAGNER,	-	<i>Grand Principal Sojourner.</i>
" GEORGE W. MACLAUGHLIN,	-	<i>Grand Chaplain.</i>
" ALEXANDER M. WIGGINS,	-	<i>Grand Chaplain.</i>
" JAMES MACGOWAN,	-	<i>Grand Chaplain.</i>
" JOSEPH S. GEORGE,	-	<i>Grand R. A. Captain.</i>
" ISAAC MUFF,	-	<i>Grand Master of 3d Vail.</i>
" CHARLES H. KINGSTON,	-	<i>Grand Master of 2d Vail.</i>
" WILLIAM F. REYNOLDS,	-	<i>Grand Master of 1st Vail, p. t.</i>
" EDWARD MASSON,	-	<i>Grand Marshal.</i>
" THOMAS R. PATTON,	-	<i>S. G. Master of Ceremonies.</i>
" HENRY C. FOX,	-	<i>J. G. Master of Cere., p. t.</i>
" JOHN L. YOUNG,	-	<i>Grand Pursuivant.</i>
" DANIEL THOMPSON,	-	<i>Grand Tyler.</i>
" MICHAEL NISBET,	-	<i>Past Grand High Priest.</i>

Seventeen Chapters represented.

Notice was received of the death of Companion Henry R. Swazey, Grand Representative of the Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania near the Grand Chapter of Louisiana; which was referred to the Committee on Correspondence.

The Committee on Correspondence made a report, which was referred to the Grand Officers, with power to act.

So much of the minutes of the Quarterly Communication held November 7, 1873, as relates to the election of Grand Officers, was read, when the Most Excellent Grand High Priest, Charles E. Meyer, delivered the following address, which was received by the Companions with marked attention:

COMPANIONS:

The year just closing has been a pleasant yet a mournful one to us as a Grand Chapter. Through the ever-loving kindness of Jehovah, we are now permitted to meet together to finish up the business of the year, and renew our obligations for the advancement of the interests of Royal Arch Masonry in general, and of this Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania in particular.

During the year we have followed to the grave the remains of Our Past Grand High Priest, Companion DAVID C. SKERRETT; Our Most Excellent Grand King, Companion JOHN WILSON, JR.; and

Our Grand Tyler, Companion CHARLES SCHNIDER.

To the Grand Chapter it is not necessary to say more than what has been said by Most Excellent Past Grand High Priest Companion George Griscom, on the death of Past Grand High Priest Skerrett.

The memorial sketch of the Most Excellent Grand King, Companion John Wilson, Jr., has been printed by order of the Grand Chapter.

Companion Charles Schnider was known to you all. His life was among you, and all will bear testimony of the virtues he possessed. The memory of these Companions grows greener and brighter day by day.

My official acts have been as follows:

In January last, accompanied by a number of the Grand Officers,

I visited the Chapters in the extreme southwestern and northwestern portions of the State.

Several of these Chapters had never had the pleasure of a visit of the Grand Chapter, and the occasion was hailed with pleasure by the Companions.

January 13, 1873, a Grand visitation was made to Duquesne Chapter, No. 193, at Pittsburg. The Grand Officers were welcomed by one of the largest assemblages of Royal Arch Masons ever congregated in that city.

After the report of the Grand Secretary on the minutes, and an address by the Grand High Priest, the Most Excellent Master's degree was conferred by the Most Excellent Grand Scribe, and the Royal Arch by the Grand High Priest.

January 14. Visited Washington, Washington county, and made a Grand visitation to Chapter No. 150.

This Chapter had never been visited by a Grand Officer, and, as a matter of course, the affairs had not been transacted in a satisfactory manner.

Among irregularities of constant practice were:

The conferring of the degrees, and then trusting the candidate for the amount of the fee. The degrees were conferred forthwith on presentation of petition, contrary to the Constitution. For many years, by resolution, the dues of all the members were remitted.

I decided that, as the By-Laws of the Chapter fix the amount of annual dues, the Chapter could not, by one resolution, remit the dues of all the members. They could, in exceptional cases, remit the dues of a Companion, as a case of charity, and then only on motion duly made and seconded, and adopted by a majority vote, but not otherwise. The action of the Chapter in the case was declared illegal and unmasonic; the Secretary was directed to make out the bills for all dues thus illegally remitted, and, in case of failure of payment, discipline those in arrears. The only means of sustaining the life of a Chapter is by the fees received from candidates, and dues received from members—the latter furnishing the means of existence; and a Chapter has no right to violate its By-Laws fixing a certain amount as annual dues.

The Mark Master Mason's degree was conferred by the Grand Scribe, and the Royal Arch exemplified by the Grand High Priest.

January 15. Visited Oil City. Here we were met by a large number of the members of Oil City Chapter, No. 236, to which a Grand visitation was made. The hall of the Chapter is large and commodious, and the furniture all that is necessary for the correct working of the degrees.

The Royal Arch degree was conferred by the Grand High Priest.

January 16. Visited Meadville, and made a Grand visitation to Solomon's Chapter, No. 191. There were a large number of members and visitors present to welcome us. The Royal Arch was con-

ferred by the Grand High Priest, and the Order of High Priesthood conferred on Companion D. D. Williams, High Priest of Oriental Chapter, No. 187, at Conneautville.

The new hall of this Chapter is one of the most beautiful in the jurisdiction, and reflects credit upon the Blue Lodge who fitted it up in such a magnificent manner.

January 17. Grand visitation to Temple Chapter, No. 215, at Erie. The Royal Arch degree was exemplified by the Grand High Priest, and the Order of High Priest conferred on High Priest George W. Arbuckle, and Past High Priest William Himrod, Jr.

The attendance was not large, but entirely satisfactory.

During this series of Grand visitations we were met at the several Chapters by District Deputy Grand High Priests Geter C. Shidle, William Chatland, C. M. Hoover, and Frank H. Foster. The warmest and most fraternal welcome was extended to the Grand Officers one and all, and it was a pleasure to me to feel that in every instance the greetings were from the heart.

For the results of the labors connected with these Grand visitations the records of the Grand Chapter will bear satisfactory evidence. In 1866, when Most Excellent Companion Samuel C. Perkins, Grand High Priest, made the first series of Grand visitations, there were forty Chapters and three Mark Lodges. Many of the former were in a languishing condition. At the present time there are ninety Chapters and three Mark Lodges—an increase of fifty Chapters, of which four have been constituted during the past year.

On January 22, in accordance with previous notice, a Grand visitation was made to Chapter No. 43, at Lancaster. Here we were met by District Deputy Grand High Priest Companion Charles M. Howell, and a large, I may say immense, gathering of Royal Arch Masons, members of Chapter No. 43, there being scarcely standing room in the Chapter hall. At the request of several of the Companions, I delivered a short historical sketch of the Chapter from its organization. The officers of the Chapter were examined, in open Chapter, in the work of the several degrees, which was highly satisfactory to the Grand High Priest. The Mark and Most Excellent degrees were also exemplified by the Grand Officers. In the afternoon, previous to the Grand visitation, the Grand Chapter was opened, and the Order of High Priesthood was conferred on Past High Priests J. I. Sprenger, William A. Atlee, J. B. Kauffman, E. D. Hurst, John L. Atlee, Henry Baumgardner, Henry Carpenter, William A. Morton, Edward Welchans, J. A. E. Reed, and George K. Reed—all Past High Priests of Chapter No. 43.

On February 3 I held a Grand Chapter of Instruction for the Mark Degree, in the Masonic Hall, Chestnut street. The attendance was large, and the Companions manifested interest in the exemplification.

On February 4 I was called upon to perform one of the most unpleasant official acts that it has been my duty to do; and I trust

my successors may not have occasion thus to exercise the authority of the Grand Chapter. For many unmasonic acts, the falsification of the records, sitting with suspended Masons, and being presided over by a Companion who was not a member, I was forced to sequestrate the warrant of Catawissa Chapter, No. 178. The Grand Chapter was pleased to sustain this action, and suspended the warrant. This prompt action will prove salutary, however harsh it may appear to the innocent though unfortunate members who were suspended.

The justice of the action of the Grand High Priest and Grand Chapter, and its authority having been recognized, the warrant was, on petition, and by vote of the Grand Chapter, restored to a few of the most active, law-abiding members; and on June 25, 1873, accompanied by the Grand Scribe, Companion Andrew Robeno, Jr., and Deputy Grand Secretary Companion J. Alexander Simpson, assisted by District Deputy Grand High Priests Companion C. F. Knapp and Snyder, and a number of Companions, I reorganized Catawissa Chapter, No. 178, and installed the officers selected by the members applying for the restoration. The Chapter is now working prosperously; but I would recommend to the earnest consideration of the members, that they carefully put aside all personal animosities, and act out what they profess to be—Royal Arch Masons in word and deed.

On February 17 I received the resignation of District Deputy Grand High Priest Henry M. Hoyt, of Wilkesbarre, which I felt called upon to accept, as Companion Hoyt had given sufficient reasons for his resigning. On the same day I appointed Companion T. S. Hillard District Deputy Grand High Priest for the balance of the year.

On February 18, accompanied by my Grand Officers, I constituted Pittston Chapter, No. 241, at Pittston, and installed its officers.

The first Grand Chapter of Instruction proving such a success, on March 6 I held a second, at which the attendance was fully as large as at the first. We were pleased to receive and welcome Companion Henry Murray, Grand Superintendent of Royal Arch Masonry in China, under the English Constitution. After the exemplification of the Royal Arch degree, Companion Murray explained the workings of the English Royal Arch, in a manner interesting to the Grand Chapter, and which showed him to be master of the work.

On March 14, assisted by the Grand Officers, I constituted Tristram B. Freeman Chapter, No. 243, to meet in this city.

April 14, a Grand visitation was made to Norristown Chapter, No. 190, at Norristown. The attendance of the members was large, and much interest manifested.

May 12, accompanied by the Grand Officers, I constituted Sharon Chapter, No. 244, at Sharon, Mercer county. This Chapter, al-

though located on the immediate border of a neighboring jurisdiction, promises, from the standing and character of its officers and members, to be one of the best in the State. They have the work, and I think will keep it pure.

The time of the dedication of the new Temple having been agreed upon, I determined upon setting apart the Hall prepared for the meetings of the Grand and Subordinate Chapters, by appropriate ceremonies, for the purposes intended ; and as this Grand Chapter had been looked upon by our sister Grand Chapters as being excessively exclusive, and as we had never had the pleasure of knowing many of our Companions of the Royal Arch of other jurisdictions, invitations were accordingly extended, on behalf of the Grand Chapter, to the first six elective Grand Officers of every Grand Chapter in the world.

We can congratulate ourselves upon the complete success of the services. Never before was such a sight beheld. The clothing of the officers of the Subordinate and Grand Chapters ; the beautiful Hall, with its hangings of blue, purple, scarlet, and white ; the organ and chorus ; the large attendance of the Companions ; and, above all, the earnest attention given by all, produced such a scene as cannot be conceived by man.

On November 28, in the Grand Chapter Hall, New Masonic Temple, Philadelphia, assisted by the Grand Officers, I constituted Abington Chapter, No. 245, to be located at Jenkintown, Montgomery county, and installed the officers.

December 1. A Grand visitation was made to Tristram B. Freeman Chapter, No. 243, Philadelphia. Installed the High Priest, King, Scribe, Treasurer, and Secretary.

December 2. A Grand visitation was made to St. John Chapter, No. 232. Installed the High Priest elect.

December 8. Grand visitation to Columbia Mark Lodge, No. 91, and installed the officers.

December 9. Grand visitation to Girard Mark Lodge, No. 214, and installed the officers.

December 12. Grand visitation to Palestine Chapter, No. 240, and installed the High Priest, King, and Scribe.

December 16. Grand visitation to Excelsior Mark Lodge, No. 216, and installed the Worshipful Master, Senior and Junior Wardens.

December 22. Grand visitation to Jerusalem Chapter, No. 3. Delivered an historical sketch of the Chapter, and installed the High Priest.

This was the last of my official visitations. Following the rule I adopted last year, I positively prohibited the expenditure of any part of the Chapter funds for the entertainment of the Grand Officers.

The object of these visitations being to have a knowledge of the working of the Chapters in the ritual and observance of the law, to

inspect the minutes, to offer words of counsel and advice, and censure when required.

Accompanied by Companion Robeno, Jr., Grand Scribe, I have also visited the other Chapters in this city, and have pleasure to report that the work, in nearly all cases, is up to the requirements of the Grand Chapter.

Of the \$1500 appropriated for my expenses, I have expended \$1398.

The following decisions have been rendered:

That all documents emanating from the Grand or Subordinate Chapters must have the seal affixed to be valid.

That a Chapter cannot be the accuser, and the same time sit in judgment on one of its members.

That a Chapter under this jurisdiction cannot grant permission to a Chapter in another jurisdiction to receive a petition from a resident of this jurisdiction.

That members of a Chapter in this jurisdiction who are officers of a Chapter under dispensation in another jurisdiction, must sever their connection with one or the other.

That a Companion receiving the degrees under an assumed name in another jurisdiction, and desires to affiliate with a Chapter in this jurisdiction, under his proper name, must produce proper evidence of his being known under both names, and must receive the endorsement on his dimit that he is the person known there as A B, although known here as C D.

That it was not in my power to permit the parade or display in public, in regalia, of a Chapter at a funeral.

That a Chapter cannot appear as such outside of the Chapter hall.

That a Chapter cannot pass a regulation to charge all the members the same amount of dues, irrespective of the length of time of their membership.

That a Chapter can suspend, at any meeting subsequent to December, for non-payment of dues, providing due and timely notice had been given, according to the Constitution.

That a Chapter failing to make its returns and pay its dues on St. John's Day, December 27, was in default.

I have had occasion, in several instances, to declare the action of several Chapters null and void, and illegal, for receiving petitions from applicants who had not previously passed the chair.

The illegal custom of receiving petitions from applicants before they are fully qualified, is growing, and the Grand Chapter should take it into consideration. The Chapter or the Secretary cannot justly be accountable; but it would be well for the recommenders and the applicant to be held to a strict accountability. The recommenders should be liable to have charges for unmasonic conduct preferred against them for recommending a false petition, and the candidate be declared unworthy to receive the degrees of

Royal Arch Masonry, for signing a false petition and imposing on the Chapter.

That all lawful Chapters of Royal Arch Masons in this jurisdiction work under a warrant from this Grand Chapter. All others pretending to confer the Chapter degrees are spurious.

From Companion William J. Hughan, our Representative near Grand Mark Lodge of England, I have received the following letter :

TRURO, ENGLAND.

To the Most Excellent Grand High Priest of Pennsylvania:

I have to report continued prosperity in our *Mark* Grand Lodge of England, and that the recognition by the Grand Chapter of Scotland of our legal existence is only a question of time, as both bodies may now be said to be on the most friendly terms.

The Lodges under the Grand Chapter of Scotland, warranted to work the *Mark* degree *in England*, have generally *joined the Mark Grand Lodge*, and all is now tending to a settlement of the question.

Pennsylvania was the first authority abroad to recognize the event in prospective, and may it never have cause to regret its action. May Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth prevail within its jurisdiction and ours, and everywhere that Masonry is known.

WILLIAM J. HUGHAN, *Representative.*

During the year I have appointed Companion Asa W. Blakesley, Past Grand High Priest of Illinois, and Companion Stephen R. Sircom, Past Grand High Priest of Nova Scotia, as Representatives of the Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania near those Grand Chapters.

Companions, with sincere thanks to you, one and all, and more especially to the elective and appointed Grand Officers, for valuable services rendered, I with pleasure surrender to my successor the sceptre of office. What I have done officially was with a single desire for the advancement of the interests of the Grand Chapter; and I can truly say that not one action do I regret, or would undo.

After which, all but Past High Priests who had received the Order of High Priesthood having retired, Companion ANDREW ROBENO, Jr., was installed as Most Excellent Grand High Priest for the Masonic year beginning this day, was duly proclaimed as such by the Grand Marshal, and received the salutations of the Companions.

The Companions who had retired were then readmitted, and the following Companions were then severally installed into the offices to which they had

been respectively elected, and were duly proclaimed by the Grand Marshal, to wit:

Comp. ROBERT H. PATTISON,	<i>M. E. Grand King.</i>
“ GEORGE E. WAGNER,	<i>M. E. Grand Scribe.</i>
“ THOMAS R. PATTON,	<i>M. E. Grand Treasurer.</i>
“ JOHN THOMSON,	<i>M. E. Grand Secretary.</i>

The Most Excellent Grand High Priest Companion Andrew Robeno, Jr., then delivered the following address:

COMPANIONS OF THE GRAND CHAPTER:

The feelings which impress me as I stand in your august presence, to assume the prerogatives and responsibilities, and to discharge the duties of Grand High Priest, are those of no common or ordinary character.

While duly sensible of the high, honorable and dignified position of the office, to which by your very generous vote I have been exalted, and for which I feel profoundly grateful, yet at the same time, I am deeply imbued with such a corresponding sense of its important duties and responsibilities as to cause me to doubt, lest I may fail to measure up to the standard of your expectations.

The two years of experience, which I had hoped to have served in a subordinate position, and which would have better fitted and qualified me for the post to the dignities and responsibilities of which you have exalted me, has been made by the death of our late Grand King JOHN WILSON, Jr., a sad disappointment. Even now the shadow of that great sorrow seems to settle down and throw its dark pall over the place where I now stand, as I call to remembrance that it was he who should stand in this place and address you as Grand High Priest; but, alas! for all worldly hopes and human expectations; he has passed those dark waters over which we all must shortly glide.

“Now to his ashes honor, peace be with him,
And choirs of angels sing him to his rest.”

Standing therefore in this place as his successor, I desire with tender and loving hands to place upon the Urn, afresh to his memory, the amaranth and the evergreen. Endowed and gifted by nature with all those beautiful qualities of heart and life, which go to make and adorn the true gentleman, they were made the more prominent and more conspicuous in him because sanctified by grace.

So that in his threefold character as a man, a Mason, and Christian, he not only challenged the admiration, but the esteem and heart-warm love of all.

If life is to be measured by the number and length of years, his indeed was comparatively short. “But we live in deeds, not years;

thoughts, not breaths; in feelings, not in figures on a dial; we should count time by heart throbs; he most lives who feels most, lives noblest, acts best." Measured by such a standard, this Most Excellent of Grand Kings had outlived many of his contemporaries much older in years.

"Only the actions of the just
Smell sweetly and blossom in the dust."

And as the sweet memories of the just is as precious ointment poured forth, so may the fragrance of this good man's life even be our inspiration.

As your Grand High Priest, with such a bright example just before me, together with a long catalogue of so many distinguished and illustrious predecessors, whose deeds and lives have distinguished this high office, I cannot fail, in walking by the same rule and minding the same things, to merit and receive at least your approbation, even should I not meet with the same degree of success.

Justly regarded as the oldest of Grand Chapters, so is our status in every other respect second to none among our sister grand bodies.

This proud and prominent position has been fairly, justly and honorably attained by a wise, prudent, judicious and always conservative course, that has ever been the distinguishing characteristic of her acts.

It shall be my constant aim and steady effort, by your co-operation, to maintain this exalted position, and as we are distinguished for being the oldest of Grand Chapters, so may we ever be foremost in the promotion of every good word and work. In the furtherance of this end and object, I desire to call your attention at the commencement of my official duties, to one or two serious and growing evils, which has not failed to impress itself upon the most casual observer, and which is rapidly increasing to an extent that may lead to consequences we may all have cause to regret when too late.

I would refer you, my Companions, to the almost criminal neglect of the ballot. This grand old landmark seems to be getting, at least in some of our Chapters, almost obsolete. If we are to take the number of our Companions who participate in this duty as a criteria, it is indeed fast fading away.

I have been in not a few Chapters where seventy-five to a hundred members have quietly sat. While out of all those numbers, not more than four or five Companions manifested the least inclination to vote or deposit a ballot.

Such a fearful, I may say, monstrous state of apathy, and entire indifference by so many of our members to such a high Masonic duty, is indeed great cause for alarm. For such neglect and supineness must necessarily make the avenues to our Tabernacles an indiscriminate highway to all who would choose to take advantage of such indifference.

When we for a moment consider, that the Masonic ballot is the fountain and channel through which all of good and pure, or of bad and evil, flow to us, how terrible the guilt, and fearful the responsibility resting upon those who habitually neglect and treat with indifference this high Masonic duty.

I charge you, my Companions—I charge you, Most Excellent High Priest, to see to it, that your robes of office is clear of this great offence. By insisting on a general vote of the members of your Chapter on every applicant who comes before it, and not suffer the duty of a membership of two and three hundred to be performed by one or two Companions.

The abuse of the ballot in my estimation, Companions, is not to be feared by us just now, so much as as this wholesale neglect by our members.

For I hold to the earnest conviction, so far at least as the purity, permanency and well-being of our Chapters are concerned, that it is better far a good man should be deprived of the enjoyment of our privilege by the abuse of the ballot, however much it should be regretted and deplored, than to suffer one bad man to come among us by its neglect, and by so doing disturb the peace and harmony, and thus mar the pleasure of our communications.

I would also urge upon your attention in this connection, the great importance of a judicious selection of officers for the Chapters, and the exercise of great caution to have representative men at the head. In this respect, they should be ornaments as well as useful members of our Order. I regret to say this is not always the case.

The office of High Priest is invested with great dignity, duties and privileges. In the Jewish economy he was invested with both temporal and spiritual authority. He was the final arbiter of all controversy. Sometimes the pontifical and regal dignity was united in him. The very garments peculiar to his sacred office were called holy. On front of his mitre was inscribed, "Holiness to the Lord." The crown itself was called the holy crown. The oil with which he was anointed, holy ointment. The seat of his administration was called the holy sanctuary. Imagine in all seriousness, imagine what should be the character of him upon whom you place these robes pontifical. Aye, I say, pause well to consider his virtues, ere you exalt to such a position of sacred trust and holy dignity.

Companions, as your Grand High Priest, I have been invested with supreme power and authority ; let me say, in view of this generous confidence, that as the breast-plate upon which was inscribed the *Tribes of Old Israel*, so shall I ever keep engraven, deep within my breast, the interest and welfare not only of every Chapter but that of every companion.

I have too deep a sense of my own deficiencies to do or say any thing, I trust, that would look like usurpation ; and my high regard for you, for the Order, and the entire membership, is such as will

not admit of any wish on my part to mar the pleasure of our communications by a neglect of that respect and courtesy which is due the rights and feelings of every member of this Grand Chapter. And I am confident I will see manifest the same degree of respect due the office and position which you have called me to occupy.

Companions in office, in the language of one who, many years ago, on assuming a similar trust, so would I reiterate to you on this occasion, that "To us has been committed the solemn trust ; into our hands have been put the safety and credit of Royal Arch Masonry in this jurisdiction. Let us, as the representatives of nine thousand Royal Arch Masons, while we receive this trust, resolve, in our hands, the light of Royal Arch Masonry shall not be dimmed nor its glory diminished ; that we will hand down to our successors, unimpaired, the goodly heritage which we have received."

As we enter on a new year, and stand within these newly consecrated vails, let us invoke the spirit of those cardinal virtues of our Order: "Temperance, Fortitude, Prudence and Justice;" to attend and signalize our every act ; and in the faithful discharge of our Masonic duties, may neither friendship or fear impell us to do aught but what our enlightened conscience, in the fear of God, will approve.

The frequent visits paid this Grand Chapter during the past year by the sable messenger, summoning the Most Excellent Grand King from his throne, and the ever faithful Grand Tyler from his post, should not fail to solemnly impress us with the uncertainties and transient nature of human life. The cradle and the coffin stand side by side to each other ; and it is a melancholy truth, that so soon as we begin to live, that moment we begin to die ; to-day we put forth the tender leaves of hope, to-morrow they wither, fade and die.

"Catch, then, O, catch the transient hour,
Improve each moment as it flies ;
Life's a short summer—man's a flower ;
He dies ; alas ! how soon he dies."

So live that when thy summons comes to join
The innumerable caravan, that moves
To the pale realms of shade, where each shall take
His chamber in the silent halls of death,
Thou go not, like the quarry-slave at night,
Scourged to his dungeon ; but sustained and soothed
By an unfaltering trust, approach thy grave
Like one who wraps the drapery of his couch
About him, and lies down to pleasant dreams.

The Most Excellent Grand High Priest then announced the following appointments:

Companions

DAVID B. TAYLOR, . . . No. 183, *Grand Captain of the Host.*
 JOHN J. HEISLER, . . . No. 91, *Grand Principal Sojourner.*
 WILLIAM H. BURKHARDT, No. 52, *Grand R. A. Captain.*
 EDWARD MATHEWS, . . . No. 91, *Grand Master of 3d Vail.*
 GEORGE H. ASHTON, . . . No. 3, *Grand Master of 2d Vail.*
 HIBBERT P. JOHN, . . . No. 169, *Grand Master of 1st Vail.*
 EDWARD MASSON, . . . No. 232, *Grand Marshal.*
 WILLIAM T. REYNOLDS, . . No. 183, *S. G. Master of Ceremonies.*
 ROBERT H. VAUGHN, . . No. 232, *J. G. Master of Ceremonies.*
 WILLIAM C. HAMILTON, . No. 52, *Grand Pursuivant.*
 HARRISON G. CLARK, *Grand Tyler.*

GRAND CHAPLAINS.

Reverend Companion	JOHN CHAMBERS, D. D.,
"	JOSEPH CASTLE, D. D.,
"	JAMES MACGOWAN,
"	ALEXANDER M. WIGGINS,
"	J. D. HERR,
"	EMANUEL OPPENHEIM,
"	LEIGHTON COLEMAN,
"	WILLIAM C. ROBINSON,
"	J. J. McILYAR,
"	WILLIAM B. WOOD,
"	GEORGE W. MACLAUGHLIN,
"	DANIEL WASHBURN,
"	THOMAS J. DAVIS,
"	THOMAS A. FERNLEY.

COMMITTEE ON WORK.

Comp. GEORGE W. WOOD, P. G. H. P.	Comp. DANIEL THOMPSON, P. G. H. P.
" HARMAN BAUGH, P. G. H. P.	" MICHAEL NISBET, P. G. H. P.
Comp. JOSEPH S. GEORGE.	

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE.

Comp. CONRAD B. DAY,	Comp. M. RICHARDS MUCKLÉ,
" DENNIS F. DEALY,	" JOSEPH H. HEDGES,
Comp. A. NELSON BATTEN.	

COMMITTEE ON CORRESPONDENCE.

Comp. WILLIAM J. KELLY,	Comp. GEORGE GRISCOM,
" JAMES H. HOPKINS,	" THOMAS JACOBS,
Comp. EDWIN G. MARTIN.	

COMMITTEE ON BY-LAWS.

Comp. J. ALEXANDER SIMPSON, Comp. GEORGE J. BECKER,
 " ROBERT B. SALTER, " SIDNEY R. MORRIS,
 Comp. CHARLES D. FREEMAN.

COMMITTEE ON APPEALS.

Comp. MICHAEL NISBET, Comp. LOUIS WAGNER,
 P. G. H. P.
 " HENRY J. WHITE, " EDWARD R. WORRALL,
 Comp. THOMAS S. WOODBURY.

COMMITTEE ON CHARITY.

Comp. HENRY L. SINEXON, Comp. ALFRED T. JONES,
 " WILLIAM T. TAYLOR, " JOHN W. LEE,
 Comp. GEORGE W. KENDRICK.

COMMITTEE ON PRINTING AND PUBLISHING.

Comp. CHARLES E. MEYER, Comp. JOHN L. YOUNG,
 P. G. H. P.
 " R. LLOYD LEE, " CHARLES C. DOUGLASS,
 Comp. WILLIAM N. VIGUERS.

DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND HIGH PRIESTS.

- 1.—Companion CHARLES M. HOWELL,
 Of Lancaster, for Counties of Lancaster, York and Perry.
- 2.—Companion NORRIS T. SMITH,
 Of West Chester, for Counties of Chester and Delaware, except Chapter No. 198, at
 Phoenixville.
- 3.—Companion HENRY S. STONER,
 Of Chambersburg, for Counties of Cumberland, Franklin and Adams.
- 4.—Companion JESSE ORR,
 Of Reading, for Counties of Lebanon, Dauphin and Berks.
- 5.—Companion HENRY A. WILTBURGER,
 Of Allentown, for Counties of Northampton, Lehigh and Carbon.
- 6.—Companion THADDEUS S. HILLARD,
 Of Wilkesbarre, for Counties of Luzerne, Pike and Monroe.
- 7.—Companion JOHN H. DUSENBURY,
 Of Great Bend, for Counties of Susquehanna, Sullivan and Wayne.
- 8.—Companion WILLIAM A. PECK,
 Of Towanda, for Counties of Bradford and Wyoming.
- 9.—Companion ROBERT C. SIMPSON,
 Of Wellsboro', for Counties of Tioga, Potter and McKean.
- 10.—Companion CHRISTIAN FREDERICK KNAPP,
 Of Bloomsburg, for Counties of Columbia, Montour, Union and Snyder.
- 11.—Companion GEORGE S. SNYDER,
 Of Williamsport, for Counties of Lycoming, Clinton, Centre and Northumberland.

12.—Companion CHARLES R. EARLEY, M. D.,
Of Earley, for Counties of Elk and Cameron.

13.—Companion EDMUND H. TURNER,
Of Saxton, for Counties of Blair, Cambria, Huntingdon, Mifflin, Juniata, Bedford and Fulton.

14.—Companion WILLIAM CHATLAND,
Of Brownsville, for Counties of Washington, Fayette, Green and Somerset.

15.—Companion GETER C. SHIDLE,
Of Pittsburg, for Counties of Allegheny, Westmoreland, Armstrong, Butler, Indiana and Beaver.

16.—Companion MADISON M. MERIDETH,
Of Brookville, for Counties of Clearfield and Jefferson.

17.—Companion CHRISTIAN M. HOOVER,
Of Franklin, for Counties of Clarion, Venango and Warren.

18.—Companion FRANK H. FOSTER,
Of Meadville, for Counties of Mercer, Lawrence, Crawford and Erie.

19.—Companion SAMUEL BROWN, JR.,
Of Norristown, for Counties of Montgomery and Bucks, and Chapter No. 198, at Phœnixville.

20.—Companion GEORGE P. OWEN,
Of Tremont, for the County of Schuylkill.

The Most Excellent Grand Secretary appointed Companion J. ALEXANDER SIMPSON as Deputy Grand Secretary; which appointment was confirmed by the Grand Chapter.

The Grand Chapter closed in peace at 8 o'clock 30 minutes P. M.

JOHN THOMSON,
Grand Secretary.

APPENDIX.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON CORRESPONDENCE.

TO THE

M. E. Grand High Priest,

Officers and Companions, of the

Grand Holy Royal Arch Chapter of Pennsylvania:

On behalf of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence, we would beg leave to report, that we have examined the proceedings of the following Grand Chapters, and present a limited *resume* of their work, legislation and decisions, as given in their proceedings, and most sincerely regret the absence of a number of reports which it was our pleasure and profit to review last year. We presume, of course, there are good reasons why we did not receive proceedings from all the Grand Chapters with whom we are in correspondence, and they may come even yet, but we are afraid to trust our ability to prepare the report in time for our annual meeting, (St. John's Day, December 27, 1873,) if we delay longer in our labor.

The proceedings which came to hand were from—

CALIFORNIA, - - -	1873	LOUISIANA, - - -	1873
CANADA, - - -	1872	MAINE, - - -	1873
CONNECTICUT, - - -	1872-73	MARYLAND, - - -	1872
DELAWARE, - - -	1873	MISSOURI, - - -	1872
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,	1872	NEW HAMPSHIRE, -	1872
GEORGIA, - - -	1873	NEW JERSEY, - - -	1873
ILLINOIS, - - -	1872	NORTH CAROLINA, -	1873
INDIANA, - - -	1872	NOVA SCOTIA, - - -	1871-72
IOWA, - - -	1872	OHIO, - - -	1872-73
KENTUCKY, - - -	1872	SOUTH CAROLINA, -	1873

GRAND MARK LODGE OF ENGLAND AND WALES.

Those reviewed last year and not received this, were from—

Alabama,	Michigan,	Tennessee,
Arkansas,	Minnesota,	Texas,
Florida,	Nebraska,	Vermont,
Kansas,	New York,	Virginia,
Massachusetts,	Oregon,	Wisconsin,
Mississippi,	Rhode Island,	West Virginia,

Grand Chapter of Scotland.

We commence our review with—

CALIFORNIA.

The Nineteenth Annual Convocation was held at the Masonic Temple in the City of San Francisco, April 8, 1873.

The Most Excellent Grand High Priest, Companion JACOB HART NEFF, delivered an address, from which we quote:

“I have granted dispensations for the formation of three new Chapters—one at Rough and Ready, Siskiyou county, to be called Mount Carmel Chapter; one at Santa Rosa, in Sonoma county, to be called Santa Rosa Chapter, and one at Woodland, Yolo county, to be called Woodland Chapter. In each case all the constitutional requirements were fully complied with, and from my personal knowledge of their location, and the character of the Companions constituting them, I am convinced that they will do honor to this Grand Chapter. In the case of Woodland Chapter, I was personally present, and assisted in its organization, and, upon due petition from the council thereof, granted my dispensation to ballot upon petitions without the usual reference to a committee, being fully satisfied that the interests of Royal Arch Masonry would be benefited thereby. I have also at various times approved sundry amendments to by-laws, but as they have generally been only such amendments as would serve to adapt them to the wants of the particular localities, I deem it unnecessary to refer to them further.”

The part of the above we object to, is the dispensations that were issued to ballot for candidates without the usual time for inquiry being allowed. Will the time ever come when we shall see the gross inconsistency of allowing applicants to come into our Chapter without complying most rigidly with all the requirements of our laws and usages.

Again he says:

“In consequence of the great expense attendant in procuring the services of the Grand Lecturer, by Chapters located in remote sections of our jurisdiction, and the utter inability of some of those Chapters to meet this expense, and in order that the former efforts of this Grand Chapter in establishing a uniform system of work may

be more successfully carried into effect, I would recommend that a reasonable salary be paid the Grand Lecturer by this Grand Chapter; and when any Chapter requiring his services shall employ him, it shall only be necessary for such Chapter to pay the actual expenses in going to and returning from the place where said Chapter is located. And I would further recommend that he be required to visit each Chapter within this jurisdiction at least once a year, and report the condition of every Chapter to the Grand Chapter at its Annual Convocation."

Our experience of Grand Lecturers is of course limited, but from what is said of them by some jurisdictions who have used them, we should think it would be most beneficial to adopt a system of district deputies, and save considerable money by the operation.

The Committee on Finance, to whom was referred the above part of the address, reported as follows:

"With regard to that portion of the annual address of the Grand High Priest which was referred to this Committee, recommending a salary to the Grand Lecturer, we are of the opinion that the revenues of the Grand Chapter are not sufficient to warrant the payment of a salary at all adequate to the labor which is *needed* to be performed in order to insure that uniformity of work which it is sought to establish. We would, however, recommend that the subject matter be referred to a special committee of three, whose duty it shall be to prepare a plan similar to that adopted by the Grand Lodge, fixing a salary for the Grand Lecturer, the appointment by the Grand High Priest of a sufficient number of deputies, dividing the jurisdiction into districts, and making it compulsory upon subordinate Chapters to adopt the uniformity of work prescribed, and to report the same at the next Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter."

"Companion Charles Louis Wiggin presented the following question:—Does the restoration of a member of a Lodge, after suspension, restore him in the Chapter?"

The question was not answered. And if not thought impertinent, we should like to submit the following thoughts upon the matter:

With us, suspension means qualified or limited expulsion. That is, during suspension the brother is cut off from all rights, benefits or pleasures of Masonry. Now it is conceded that the brother must have committed some offence, or else there would be no occasion for punishment. The Blue Lodge having suspended the brother, and the Chapter fully recognizing the propriety of having no one

in their membership who could not belong to a Blue Lodge, suspends—either *ipso facto* or otherwise.

We clearly think (and practice) that if the restored brother wants membership in the Chapter again, he must come in the Chapter by the same process as in the Lodge—that is, by petition.

The Report of the Committee on Correspondence was again presented by Companion Charles Louis Wigan, and is in every respect admirable.

Reviewing Iowa, he says :

“Any Mason in California who remains unaffiliated for a period of six months, unless he pays to some Lodge an amount equivalent to its monthly dues for the time he remains unaffiliated, becomes, by operation of law, suspended from all the rights and privileges of Masonry, and is excluded from all the higher Masonic bodies. This may appear to be a somewhat rigorous law, but it has proved to be a very effective one, and is the only means by which many of the drones in the Masonic hive can be brought to a sense of their duty.”

Our practice exactly, except as to paying the amount of dues to some Lodge, as we require them to be actually affiliated, and we concur it is effective.

Again, on Dispensations, he says :

“It is not every Master Mason who is qualified to pass the sacred veils of the tabernacle, and it is important that time should be given for a thorough investigation of the character and qualifications of all who may apply at the outer courts for admittance. Of all that mischievous class of documents yclept ‘special dispensations,’ the most mischievous are those which authorize the reception of, and action upon, petitions without reference to a committee of investigation, and such authority should be given only in cases of great emergency, and then only when the applicant for such favor is well known.”

To which we agree.

Reviewing Louisiana, he says :

“The question of non-affiliation is a vexatious one, and we agree with Companion Girard that some plan should be devised by which the evil may be remedied. We believe that any Royal Arch Mason who neglects or refuses to affiliate with some Chapter for a period of twelve months, should be declared suspended from all the rights and privileges of Royal Arch Masonry. We know of no other remedy which would prove effectual. The rule may appear to be a harsh one, yet we believe in the principle that he who contributes nothing to the general good of the body, should have no share in the general benefits to be derived from it.”

Our practice is to prevent them from visiting a Chapter but once during his non-affiliation. We do allow him to visit each Chapter once, the object being to give him an opportunity to judge which one he would prefer. After the one visit, however, he is debarred from further visiting until he affiliates.

Again, in his review of Maryland, he gives the following, to which we agree:

"There is a certain class in every community, Masonic or otherwise, who can only be brought to a realizing sense of their duty to their fellow-men by a strict administration of law, and a wholesome dread of its penalties. We sometimes hear Masons complain that the Order is degenerating into an institution of dollars and cents ; dollars and cents indeed ! What but dollars and cents clothes the naked and feeds the hungry ? What but dollars and cents furnishes the destitute widow and helpless orphan with home and shelter and the comforts of life ? What but dollars and cents buries the dead, and furnishes aid and comfort to the sick and suffering ? Those who complain that Masonry is an institution of dollars and cents, in nine cases out of ten, are those who do not pay their dues, or, if they do, pay them grudgingly and tardily ; and it is this class of 'dollars and cents' Masons that our law is intended to reach. The good and true Mason needs no incentive to pay his dues ; he understands his obligations to his Lodge or Chapter, and he cheerfully discharges them, or if misfortune befalls him and he cannot pay, he has only to make the fact known and he is excused. The true Mason joins the Order that he may benefit others, not with the hope or expectation of benefits that may accrue to himself. We have frequently noticed that these dollar and cent Masons—while in prosperity ignoring their obligations to the Order, contributing nothing to its charities, and bearing no part of its burdens—when adversity overtakes them, and the need of a friendly sustaining hand is felt, are the first to rush forward and present their claims as Masons, and are most clamorous for sympathy and aid. It causes too much trouble and expense to prefer charges against these delinquents and have them tried individually, and punished for the non-payment of their dues ; and to avoid that trouble, the section of our Constitution referred to by Companion Emmons, declares the non-payment of dues a Masonic crime, and awards its punishment."

In the following we do not coincide, as we take for granted that the condition on which he accepts his installation, precludes the possibility of his resigning :

"We are still of the opinion that, under certain circumstances, an installed officer not only has the right, but it is his duty to resign. Where there is no specific law governing a case, we believe the law of common sense should prevail, and that would dictate

that, when a man assumes a position, the duties of which he cannot perform, the sooner he retires and makes way for some one who can, the better for all concerned."

In his review of Pennsylvania, he says:—"We are sorry to observe that at a Quarterly Convocation, held August 3, 1871, a resolution was adopted declining to join the General Grand Chapter." We regret to give Companion Wigan cause for sorrow, but in our defense, we say we do not think it politic for grand jurisdictions to surrender even a tittle of their supremacy. We know it is urged by many who are in the General Grand Chapter, that it tends to uniformity of work, &c.; but the testimony of some jurisdictions who are fully represented in their council, show to our mind a different result. First, they do not seem to pass positive laws; so that in many cases we find the excuse made, that the law was only advisory, not mandatory, &c.; beside, if our mutual obligations will not keep us in the traces, and our duty as Royal Arch Masons make us try and do right, we need not hope for redress, either from the General Grand Chapter or any other body.

We again repeat, however, that from our knowledge of many of the members of that body, it is too respectable to be sneered at; and, indeed, we individually are quite satisfied that nothing but good intentions actuate them, but we do not wish to join.

He quotes fairly from our Proceedings of 1871, and concludes with the following:

"The Report on Correspondence is again from the pen of Companion George Griscom, who reviews the transactions of twenty-nine Grand Chapters, briefly, but courteously, and in a fraternal spirit. California, for 1871, receives kindly mention."

In his review of Tennessee, he says:

"And again he walks into the Representative system rough shod. He evidently has very little respect for the high dignity and importance of a Grand Representative under the present system. He believes in putting them to practical use, and the idea is not a bad one. Suppose the writer should visit Tennessee on business or pleasure; he would naturally seek the acquaintance of companions or brothers in whom he could have confidence to aid him in his views. Being unknown to all, in these days of imposition and rascality, a letter from the Representative of the Grand Chapter of Tennessee to any officer of that Grand Body might be of the greatest convenience and service. We believe the Representative system is calculated to bring about a closer fraternal relation between the

several Grand Bodies, and we hope it will have a fair trial, but we hope the suggestion of Companion Wheeler may find favor, and that the system may at once be made of some practical utility. He says :

“ ‘ It may not be inappropriate here to make some remarks on the system of Grand Representation. The system as now conducted appears to be simply a social exchange of empty honors ; an interchange of civilities between Grand Bodies that prescribes no duties, nor grants no powers ; dummies marked with the names of the various Grand jurisdictions that have appointed them. Could not the system be used for some good and practical purpose ? Could not these Representatives be required to make themselves familiar with the history, rules, regulations, and ritual of the Grand jurisdiction they represent, and give us yearly a synopsis of the same in so far as they differed from our own ? Could they not be made as ministers in charge of foreign affairs, and give passports as it were to Companions that come from other jurisdictions to visit us, more especially if asking charities or privileges ? Could they not be used as a means of better safeguard to our Order, and of improving our intellectual and Masonic standing ? As now I submit to you the question, are they of any benefit to the Craft?’ ”

We look upon the above as the best reason for representation we have seen yet. Last year we wrote against the system very decidedly. Fortunately, most of it was cut out, and we are glad of it, for we candidly confess we are converted, and feel grateful to Companion Wigan for the reasoning which has wrought our conversion. Show us a good use for any office, and we will defend it ; but in these days of excessive vanity, we look with suspicion upon all new-fangled inventions until, as in the above case, we are shown some usefulness in them.

Companion WILLIAM ABRAHAM DAVIES, *Grand High Priest.*

Companion CHARLES LOUIS WIGAN, *Grand Secretary.*

CANADA.

The Fifteenth Annual Convocation was held in the City of Toronto, August 14, 1872.

The Grand Scribe E. read a letter from the Most Excellent Grand Zerubbabel, expressing deep regret at his not being able to be present at the Convocation.

The address of the Most Excellent Grand Zerubbabel was read by proxy. It was local in its reference, and full of good points, which were listened to with rapt attention.

The reports of the different Superintendents show the condition

of Royal Arch Masonry in their respective districts to be flourishing.

The following shows a curious arrangement, but in our judgment the last idea will be best ; and as a good thing cannot be too often repeated, we can see no harm in carrying it out :

“ On his arrival there some sort of arrangement was made by the Thetis Chapter and the Carnarvon Chapter in Montreal, holding of the Grand Chapter of Canada, No. 21, whereby the latter Chapter conferred the degree, as for the Thetis Chapter, upon Brother Murray. The Thetis Chapter then applied to me for a diploma, but as our diplomas bear that on a certain day and in a certain Chapter the brother was exalted, and as in point of fact Brother Murray was not and could not be so exalted in the Thetis Chapter, he being then in Canada, I declined to give a diploma, and the Supreme Chapter endorsed the view I had taken. What Brother Murray should have done then was to have affiliated into a Canadian Chapter as a Past Master, and then taken the Excellent and Arch degrees, but he has not done so, and now he is recognized by neither body. Be so good as to ascertain from our Representative the views of the Grand Chapter of Canada on the subject, and how they think the matter is to be put right. My own view is that the only thing to be done is to get Brother Murray recorded as a member of the Canadian Chapter, and, if need be, exalted of new.

I am, Most Excellent Sir and Companion, yours fraternally,
L. MACKERSY, G. S. E., S. C. of Scotland.

A. J. STEWART, Esq.,
Representative from Grand Chapter of Canada, 98 George street.”

We find the following action was taken, which seems to have cut the knot :

“ EXTRACT OF MINUTES OF A REGULAR CONVOCATION OF CARNARVON CHAPTER, NO. 21, R. C., HELD ON THE 20TH APRIL, 1871 :

“ Brother R. B. Murray, a member of Thetis Chapter, Glasgow, being in attendance, was introduced, properly prepared, and exalted to the Supreme Degree of the Holy Royal Arch. The Scribe E. was then instructed to communicate to Thetis Chapter (at whose request the brother had been exalted) the fact of the brother having received this degree, and requesting them to forward his diploma. Given under our hand and the seal of the Chapter, at Montreal, this 19th day of October, 1871.

F. M. SOWDON, Z.”

The thanks of this Grand Chapter were tendered to the Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania for its presentation of a copy of their Constitution and By-Laws.

The Report on Correspondence was again presented by Companion Henry Robertson.

In regard to Substitutes, he gives his views as follows:

"Our own opinion is in favor of their use, and such is the practice in this jurisdiction. We think the reasons given in the majority report are not to be gainsaid. Their prohibition must certainly be productive of great inconvenience, and would almost be a death-blow to many good Chapters working in thinly-settled parts of the country. The only objection worthy of notice is in clause four of the minority report, and this may be well met by the reply that all our ceremonies are *symbolical*, and the reasons why these are required are sufficiently apparent to every intelligent Royal Arch Mason who has carefully studied that degree. The three represent the 'three faithful sojourners by whom the secrets of the Royal Arch were discovered,' and for which they were honored with seats in the august Sanhedrim. The symbolism is faithfully carried out, whether the three be actual candidates or not, and that is all that is necessary. We hope to see Iowa reverse her action in this matter next meeting."

With which we agree.

The following we insert for the information of our Companions; being so different from the practice with us, it will keep us posted in the doings of our friends:

"We may add that there are three separate Chair Degrees, one for each of the three chief offices in the Chapter: First, Second, and Third Principals, or Z., H., and J. On the installation of a Companion to either of these chairs, he receives the degree pertaining to that chair to which he is installed, just as the brother who is elected to preside over a Lodge receives the Master's (chair) degree when installed as Worshipful Master. In the latter case this is done by a Board of (not less than three) Installed Masters, in the former by a Council of Installed Principals of the same number. And as a Companion cannot be elected H., or second Principal, without a year's previous service as J., or Third Principal, nor Z., or First Principal, without the same time of service in the chair of H., it follows that a Z. must be possessed of all three chair degrees, an H. of two, and J. of but one."

He gives Pennsylvania fraternal review, quoting largely from our report of 1871.

The following, from his conclusion, we think good, and give it without apology, as some may read it who will be strengthened in their good work by such words of cheer:

"The best justification for this position is, undoubtedly, to be found in the daily walk and conversation of each individual Companion. If his life in the Chapter and in the world be Masonically

pure ; if he practices in his daily career the precepts taught within the Tabernacle, and promotes by every means in his power the great fundamental principles of Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth, then indeed the foundation is secure for that superstructure, perfect in its parts and honorable to the builder, which we all desire to erect.

“ These principles include the great watchword of our fraternity—Charity. Much has been done, and is still being done, we are glad to say, in this direction, but much is still to be done ; and to each individual Companion the honor of our craft is committed, and none can offend against these great truths without virtually wounding the institution which he has professed to admire and sworn to defend. We should plead for our distressed brethren, for means to place them in comfort for the short remainder of their checkered lives ; for their widows, that they may once more know a home, and for their children, that they may be trained by industry and honesty to reverse the sad decree of fortune which has made them recipients of aid.

“ When that is done, we may with confidence leave the accomplishment to the Grand Architect of the Universe, by whose overruling care it may prove the good seed of an abundant and still increasing harvest, and the sound foundation of an edifice of which we do not yet, and in our generation never may, see the dimensions, but which, when completed, must and will, in accordance with the word of Him whose promise never fails, endure forever. So mote it be.”

Companion S. B. HARMON, *Grand Zerubbabel.*

Companion THOMAS BIRD HAMILTON, *Grand Secretary.*

CONNECTICUT.

The Annual Convocation was held in the City of New Haven, May 13, 1872, Most Excellent Grand High Priest Companion Wm. WALLACE LEE presiding, who delivered an excellent address.

The following we insert as the report of a Committee appointed for the purpose, and after a year's reflection made report. With all due deference to the Committee, we think they have got the matter down to a point so fine as to be incomprehensible.

“ That they have given the subject referred to them much careful thought and have considered several different propositions, among them the appointment of District Deputy Grand High Priests, as is done in some of our sister jurisdictions. Your Committee have been unable to find any precedent in the ancient constitutions and usages of our Order for the modern office above named, and are opposed to the creation of any new dignities, and the engraving of novelties upon the body of Masonry ; and therefore cannot recommend the appointment of such officers.

"No other proposition which has been before us calls for notice except that upon which we have concluded.

"It is believed by your Committee that it is not possible to secure a proper visitation and inspection of the subordinate Chapters in any other manner than by the employment of some competent Companion, who shall make it *his business* to perform such duties, and who shall receive just compensation from this Grand Body for the services performed. We deem it more equitable and necessary to the efficient and independent performance of those duties, that they should be paid for by the Grand Chapter and not by the subordinates. In accordance with these views we therefore recommend the adoption of the following resolutions, as in our judgment the best plan for meeting more fully the deficiency which exists in our system of visitation and inspection:

"*Resolved*, That the M.·. E.·. Grand High Priest be and he hereby is requested to warrant and appoint, at each Annual Convocation of this Grand Chapter, some competent and worthy Companion, as his proxy, to visit, inspect and instruct the several subordinate Chapters, with full powers for the proper performance of such duties.

"*Resolved*, That it shall be the duty of the proxy of the M.·. E.·. Grand High Priest, so appointed, to visit for inspection and instruction each of the subordinate Chapters once in each year.

"*Resolved*, That the Grand Treasurer be and he hereby is instructed to pay to the said proxy of the M.·. E.·. Grand High Priest out of the funds of this Grand Chapter, the sum of ten dollars for each separate Chapter so visited, inspected and instructed by him, and the necessary expenses actually incurred by him in making such visitation; such payment to be made quarterly upon the voucher of said proxy approved by the M.·. E.·. Grand High Priest."

The report was accepted and the resolutions adopted.

The Report on Correspondence was presented by Companion John W. Lewis, and reviews the proceedings of twenty-seven Grand Chapters. Pennsylvania, however, was not among the number. We are somewhat at a loss to know why we do not get recognition from our Companions of Connecticut. We think we are on their list, and regularly receive and review their proceedings. We trust Companion Lewis will give us some light upon the subject in his next, as their frequent omissions have caused much uneasiness among us.

In his review of the District of Columbia he speaks as follows, as to objecting to a candidate:

"'Live and learn,' is one of our favorite aphorisms. Will some member of the Committee on Jurisprudence, or some other philanthropic Companion from the District, take compassion on our

ignorance, and give us the authority for any *legal method of expressing* objection to an applicant *other* than by a negative vote in secret ballot. We have always been taught in Connecticut, that it is a Masonic offence for a brother or Companion to disclose his opposition to a candidate, and that the very object and essence of the secret ballot is to prevent such opposition being traced to its source. It is safe to say that no candidate is ever proposed, either in Lodge or Chapter, except by some friend who believes him worthy and desires his admission. Any known opposition immediately invites discussion and necessarily tends to disrupt that peace and harmony which is the strength and support of all societies, but more especially of ours. The practical absurdity of the conclusion of the Committee cannot be more forcibly illustrated than by their efforts to defuse the status of the unfortunate so 'objected' to, and dispose of his application fee. His status is that of Mahomet's coffin, suspended *somewhere* between earth and heaven, nobody knows where, and the Masonic Equity which returns the fee before the ballot, is not only a novel term, but supported by novel reasoning. We will simply ask, suppose the opposition to be withdrawn, is he to be asked to pay it over again before the ballot? We have always supposed it a condition precedent to the balloting for a candidate, that the Lodge or Chapter should be *in possession* of a certain sum as an earnest of the sincerity of his intention in making application, which sum is forfeited by him if he fail to present himself for initiation within a given period. But enough has been said to indicate the points on which we need further light."

Again, of Georgia, he says:

"In Connecticut, and nearly everywhere else, it is held to be the prerogative of every member of a Lodge or Chapter 'to cast his ballot for or against all candidates for admission, *advancement* or *affiliation*, *without assigning any reason therefor*; that a ballot must be spread upon the application for advancement, if requested by a member at any time before he is obligated, and that a unanimous vote is necessary for such advancement; and further, that "no discussion as to the internal qualifications of a candidate can be permitted.'" We believe this to be the ancient law and the best possible practice; and that our Georgia Companions will find, as a result of their action above given, the peace and harmony of more than one of their Chapters very seriously disturbed by the time of their next annual convocation.

"We fail to see the 'Masonic Equity' (as they call it in Washington) of requiring Chapters to pay dues to the Grand Chapter for members from whom they find it impossible to collect dues. But then, as for the past twenty years, we have seen through glass, we may see darkly."

We think Companion Lewis misapprehends the case. Our prac-

tice is to require a ballot for a candidate after report from Committee. But if from any cause a Companion could not be present at the time of such ballot, and yet arrived after his approval, before he is initiated he has a right to object, which operates the same as a black ball. There can be no debate, no question—he objects ; that closes the case, and he, the applicant, is rejected.

In his report upon Kentucky, he says:

“While we do not desire to be censorious, we cannot longer restrain the remark, that in looking over the proceedings of the various Grand Chapters which have been submitted, it has forcibly occurred to us, what a busy set of men Grand Officers, as a rule, are. ‘Private duties and engagements’ so universally prevent them from a proper discharge of the duties of their offices. It is true they always express their regret that such has been the case. But we cannot help asking if it wouldn’t be better for the Craft if they would find this out before they got into positions of real importance, (as we did once,) and allow their Companions to elect others who were not so much engrossed by other matters? Companion Roscoe stands by no means alone ; we have had such in Connecticut.”

With which we agree.

Again, from Kentucky, we quote:

“We have always considered the creation of the office of District Deputy an innovation on ancient landmarks, and are glad that our Kentucky Companions have decided to do without it. Yet we confess our inability to say exactly how to meet the want which calls the office into requisition. The subject was referred to us at the last annual convocation of Connecticut, but we have not as yet been able to see through it.”

We would like to see where the innovation comes in. In our State, for instance, covering 46,000 square miles, in which are located eighty-six Chapters, scattered over all of this space, some difficult of access, it would be utterly impossible for *our* Grand High Priest to keep such supervision over them as is required to keep them within due bounds in work and law ; not that our Companions are a whit more dumb than other Companions, but from the very “cussedness” of human nature, constructions of the most absurd kind get rampant when no officer is about whose decision must be final. Now our district deputies are properly hedged in by law ; they are in frequent correspondence with the Grand High Priest ; they are (or ought to be) selected for their intelligence and zeal, and they take the place of the Grand High Priest in authority when he is absent. They must make report of their doings to the

Grand Chapter, and we have found them of infinite service in our Grand Chapter. There is certainly no principle of Masonic law violated, and hence we cannot see the innovation.

We insert the following as a matter of information which explains itself; it relates to the action of the General Grand Chapter:

“ ‘That decision merely declared what the G.: O.: W.: is. It did not decide that there was no G.: R.: A.: W.:, or that the G.: R.: A.: W.: was the G.: O.: W.: It did not decide that the G.: R.: A.: W.: was ‘the Lord, the devil, and a City of Egypt:’ that was *said* on the *argument*. ‘It did not decide to *omit* the G.: R.: A.: W.:, but, on the contrary, a proposition to amend the declaratory resolution, so as to eliminate the G.: R.: A.: W.:, was *rejected*, even by M.: E.: Companion Pike. Now the work in Connecticut, and I presume elsewhere, used the term O.: as modifying the G.: R.: A.: W.:, or applicable to it. The declaratory resolution of the General Grand Chapter was complied with, and very properly, in Connecticut, by striking out the term O.:, wherever applied to the G.: R.: A.: W.:, and retaining it in connection with the G.: O.: W.: or G.: and S.: N.:, or L.: L.: M.: W.:. This latter is not at all the G.: R.: A.: W.:, because the G.: R.: A.: W.: is that which is peculiar to the R.: A.:, and in no other way related to Masonry; while the G.: O.: W.: was *not* peculiar to the R.: A.:, but to the Master’s Degree; and the R.: A.: W.: and the A.: itself were designed to *preserve* the G.: O.: W.:, or G.: and S.: N.:, or L.: L.: M.: W.:, the object and reward of our work and our labors. I trust the Craft will understand the distinction. I will further add, that had the General Grand Chapter struck out (as many incorrectly supposed) the G.: R.: A.: W.:, the Grand Chapter of Connecticut would have obeyed the landmarks instead of the General Grand Chapter.’

“We hope that the above, from the pen of M.: E.: Companion Lockwood, will be satisfactory to our Massachusetts Companions, and clear up for many others the babel of confusion created by the hasty action and debate in the General Grand Chapter.”

Companion WILLIAM WALLACE LEE, *Grand High Priest.*

Companion JOSEPH R. WHEELER, (re-elected,) *Grand Secretary.*

DELAWARE.

The Fifth Annual Convocation was held at Dover, January 15, 1873, Most Excellent Grand High Priest JOHN R. McFEE presiding.

The Grand High Priest delivered an address which was a *resume* of his work during the year. Among other things reported by him was the following:

“ ‘Would it be in accordance with Masonic law and usage for me, as High Priest of said Chapter, to allow Companions, members of the Chapter, to vote upon a resolution recommending themselves to yourself, or the Most Excellent Deputy Grand High Priest, as proper persons possessing the requisite qualifications to form and open a Chapter under dispensation? Or would it be my duty to request the applicants for recommendation to retire, and allow the Companions remaining the opportunity fully to discuss the matter?’

“To these questions I answered as follows:—As I have no copy of the by-laws of your Chapter, I would suggest to you to examine those by-laws carefully, and ascertain whether they contain any provision prohibiting a member from voting on questions in which he is directly interested. Any such provision would settle this matter. But if they contain no such provision, then it is my opinion that every member of a Chapter, in good standing, has a right to speak and vote on all questions that come before the Chapter for discussion, except on trials in which he is himself interested.”

The following we insert as part of their actions, and shows again how the mighty may fall:

“The undersigned differing in opinion from the majority of the Committee respecting the right of Past Grand High Priest George W. Chaytor to membership in this Grand Chapter, under its present Constitution,—she being a Grand High Priest of the old Grand Chapter,—begs leave to present his name as one of the permanent members of the Grand Chapter.

“And also whether this Grand Chapter was an entirely new organization, or a revival of the old Grand Chapter.

“Those opposing the motion contended that while the provision of the Constitution remained—this being an entirely new organization—no Past Grand High Priest, except such as were made so by election and installation in this Grand Chapter, could be permanent members, as it was clearly and distinctly a new Grand Chapter, and not a restoration.

“On the other hand, it was held that it was a restoration, and that the objection was merely technical. Companion Chaytor was a Grand High Priest of this jurisdiction, and was therefore entitled to all the rights and benefits of said office.

“During the discussion, the Grand High Priest arose in his place, and made the following decision:

“‘I desire to expressly state that this Grand Chapter is not a *restoration*. I had the honor to be one of three High Priests appointed by the Most Excellent Grand High Priest of the General Grand Chapter of the United States to perfect this organization, and distinctly assert that this is not a restoration of the old Grand Chapter, but a new organization—a new Grand Chapter.’

“Thereupon the motion was lost.”

An amendment to their Constitution was adopted, fixing Wilmington as the place of their annual meeting hereafter.

No Report on Correspondence.

Companion GEORGE W. STONE, *Grand High Priest.*

Companion J. P. ALLMOND, (re-elected,) *Grand Secretary.*

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

The Sixth Annual Convocation was held at Washington, November 12, 1872.

The Most Excellent Grand High Priest, Companion JOSEPH DANIELS, delivered an address.

The Committee on Jurisprudence reported the following:

"At the last Semi-Annual Convocation of this Grand Chapter the following paper was submitted and referred to the Committee on Jurisprudence, with instructions to report at this Convocation:

"Can objections be legally entertained against an applicant for the Capitular degrees of Masonry previous to a ballot? If so, what is the status of the applicant, and what disposition should be made of the fee accompanying the application?"

"1st. Your Committee hold that at any stage of the proceedings a Companion, who is a member of the Chapter and in good standing, has the right to object to the admission or advancement of an applicant, and that his objection, when offered, is legal; and the Chapter having nothing to do with the sufficiency of the Companion's reasons, the brother objected to cannot be received or advanced until the objection is by the Companion offering it withdrawn, or his membership with the Chapter has ceased. Whether or not, in many, and indeed a majority of instances, the objection or protest is the preferable way for a Companion to exercise his legal right to prevent the admission of a brother into his Chapter who for any reason he deems unworthy, is a question not before your Committee, and therefore they have no opinion to offer in regard to the same.

"2d. 'What is the status of the applicant' against whose admission an objection has been offered? The petition having been received and referred, is the property of the Chapter, and cannot be withdrawn. Neither can the brother be admitted or advanced so long as the objection of a Companion who is a member and in good standing lies. The status of the applicant objected to, therefore, seems to be simply this:—His petition is pending before a Chapter, which prevents him petitioning anywhere else; and his admission having been objected to, he cannot be admitted so long as the objection remains.

"3d. 'What disposition should be made of the fee accompanying the application' after an objection to the admission of an applicant has been offered? This inquiry does not involve any principle of

Masonic law, but seems rather to be simply a question of Masonic equity. The fee is paid as the price of the degrees; and if a Chapter, for any reason whatever, refuses to confer the same, the fee is certainly not their property, and should therefore be returned to the applicant."

The Report on Correspondence is by Companion Noble D. Larner, and a good one. We extract the following to show that now everything is again serene in that jurisdiction.

In his review of Louisiana, he says:

"As the writer had the pleasure of being present at the meeting of the General Grand Chapter in St. Louis in 1868, and witnessing all that took place in relation to our Grand Chapter, he is, for himself, and he has no doubt that all of the Companions who were present from the District of Columbia will concur, willing to admit that the language used by Companion Mason was not justified by the facts in the case. Companion Todd, on that occasion, did all that he could, conscientiously we believe, both on the Committee and in the General Grand Chapter, to sustain the action of the Grand Chapter of Maryland and repudiate the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia. *This he had a right to do, believing, as we are certain he did, that we were in the wrong.* On the occasion referred to, we had the pleasure of meeting Companion Todd for the first time, and we freely admit that our estimate of his character forbids the supposition on our part that he would fight any question '*with unscrupulous zeal.*' Having disposed of this subject as we hope to the satisfaction of Companion Todd and the Grand Chapter of Louisiana, we take the liberty of suggesting to Companion Hornor, that the course he has thought proper to pursue in relation to this matter, is just as objectionable as the language of Companion Mason, about which he has made so much ado, and would submit that the proper course for him to have pursued, when he received our proceedings for the year 1871, and found therein 'no apology or expression of regret for the harsh and unmasonic expressions,' &c., was to have brought the subject to the attention of his Grand High Priest, who, I have no doubt, would have brought the same to the attention of our Grand Chapter, through the Representative of the Grand Chapter of Louisiana, Companion Holmead, when the whole matter would have been explained in a satisfactory manner. Companion Hornor is aware that the confidence of Grand Bodies in the writers of their reports is such, that their contents are seldom known until they are published, and then very few Companions ever read the entire report. Trusting that nothing will take place in the future to disturb the friendly relations which have existed between our Grand Chapters, we dismiss the subject."

Pennsylvania receives a very extensive notice. He says:

"Upon the conclusion of his address he installed his successor, Companion Meyer, who delivered one of the most interesting addresses it has been our privilege to read; and as it contains much valuable information, we will extract very largely from it, and trust that the Royal Craft will derive as much pleasure and profit from its perusal as we have."

We give his conclusion entire:

"We have now completed our first effort as reporter for the Grand Chapter, and trust that the result of our labors will meet with the approbation of the Companions. We have endeavored, to the best of our ability, to give a fair *resume* of the proceedings of the Grand Chapters as far as they have been placed in our hands. In doing so we have avoided all personalities, and confined our labors to that of presenting what we deemed would be of interest to the Companions of our jurisdiction. By way of explanation we would state, that immediately after the close of the last Annual Convocation of our Grand Chapter we called upon Companion Smith, who had been appointed chairman of the Committee, but who was absent from the city at the time, to notify him of his appointment, and offered our assistance in the preparation of the report, if it should be required. Subsequently Companion Smith informed the undersigned that it would be impossible for him to undertake the duty, and requested that I assume the task. Not wishing to have our Committee fail in the discharge of its duty, we reluctantly consented, and now present our work for the inspection of the overseers. In consequence of the course pursued by many of the Committees on Correspondence in other jurisdictions towards the reports of our predecessor, considerable embarrassment has been experienced at times as to how to proceed. We finally concluded not to notice what had been said by them, except in the case of Companion Hornor, of Louisiana, who, by the course he had thought proper to pursue in relation to the last report of Companion Mason, had placed our Grand Chapter in a false position.

"And now, Companions, all we have to request is that your criticisms of our work be mild, and that whatever errors we have committed may be looked upon as 'errors of the head and not of the heart.'"

Companion N. D. LARNER, *Deputy Grand High Priest.*

Companion S. G. STEPHENS, *Grand Secretary.*

GEORGIA.

The Annual Convocation was held at Augusta, April 30, 1873, Most Excellent Grand High Priest Companion GEORGE W. ADAMS presiding, who delivered an address brief but interesting, the only points of interest being the following paragraphs:

"I have been appealed to but once in the past year to define our laws, and that was by the E.·. K.·. of Newman Chapter, No. 34, asking my authority for him to open the Chapter when the High Priest was present but refused to open the same. I declined a compliance with his request for want of authority derived either from our written or unwritten law. I submit the communication marked B."

As we fail to find communication "marked B" in printed proceedings, we lose a somewhat interesting item.

The next is the following:

"As there was no Committee on Foreign Correspondence appointed at our last Convocation, I have not felt it to be my duty to make any report thereon, as I am skeptic as to any value to be derived by our members from the long reports on Foreign Correspondence which appear in our printed proceedings, cumber our minutes, and tax our treasury."

We think, Most Excellent Sir, with all due deference to your better judgment, that you make a grievous mistake in your conclusion. You certainly could not have read the reports, or any material part of them, as received by your Grand Chapter, or you never could have hazarded your reputation for good judgment in making that assertion. We grant you there may be some items in some of the reports which may have made you feel squamish, as they have us, particularly in the proceedings of New Jersey; for when we came to look over their proceedings, we find them full of such quotations as the following (see page 13, Appendix): "*Est multi fabula plena joci;*" and again, (on p. 29,) "Oreideus Naso, Neoratio Flaccus, or Marcus T. Cicero, Esq.," &c., &c. We immediately inquired the profession of the writer, and from a Jersey directory found that Companion Corson was a doctor. After pondering for some time, we asked our druggist to let us smell that stuff, and we promise you that for sixty seconds after we felt as you have expressed. But in all seriousness we cannot think you fully reflected upon the subject, and of course it will not be attributed to egotism on our part, for we are not yet in the harness long enough to be considered a reporter; but from our own very, very slight experience in the matter of reading up proceedings, we are decidedly of the conviction that those reports you speak of so lightly, are really the cream of the cocoanut, both to officers and members, and we opine that if you carefully read them, you will say so.

There seems to be some dissatisfaction on the part of some subordinates in that jurisdiction, as the following from the report of the Most Excellent Grand Secretary will show :

"In conformity to a resolution offered by the Committee on Returns, which appears on page 24, published Proceedings, I demanded the charters of the following Chapters, which were declared forfeited :—Nos. 9, 11, 20, 21, 23, 41 and 50. This demand has, however, been complied with by only one Chapter, viz., Warren, No. 21. Companion Hubert, in a letter accompanying the charter of this Chapter, states that they readily yield their charter, because they cannot secure the attendance of enough Companions to work regularly ; but he protests against the manner they have been dealt with by the Grand Chapter. His ground of complaint is, that for three years they had heard nothing from the Grand Chapter, when they were informed that their charter was forfeited. Companion Hubert is a worthy member, and we are sure that it was through no neglect of duty in him that they lost their charter, but he should remember that three years of total inattention to the requirements of the Grand Chapter is greater cause for complaint against them than he can possibly have against us."

The Grand High Priest, King and Scribe are directed by resolution to procure the services of a competent Companion to act as Grand Lecturer, &c., in order to revive the proper interest in Chapters. We remember ten years ago, our then Grand High Priest, after full consideration, concluded it would be decidedly advantageous to our subordinate Chapters to institute a system of Grand Visitations, many of the Chapters being in a languishing condition. He had been careful in his appointments to have only those who not only knew the work, but also knew how to exemplify it. He took all his appointed officers with him, including even the Masters of Vails. His object was to do the work correctly in all details, shrewdly calculating that would revive their interest, if any thing would, and he was not mistaken. The history of Royal Arch Masonry in Pennsylvania since that time will show that, for general harmony and prosperity in getting a large accession of some of our best citizens, it has not been excelled in any jurisdiction in the world. We would cheerfully give our Georgia friends a detailed history of our measures, if they wish, as we take it that the province of reporter is to convey information to all, but we do not wish to apparently parade our success or our measures leading to success, except as we would conceive it would or could do good to some of our Companions who, like ourselves, have suffered from inanition.

The following, in our judgment, shows a great want of energy in our Companion's jurisdiction, for which we are truly sorry:

"We offer the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Grand Secretary be required to write up the Journal as speedily as possible, omitting reports on Foreign Correspondence, and that he be allowed a reasonable compensation for the year 1869 and 1870.

Respectfully submitted,

JAMES L. GOW."

Companion GEORGE W. ADAMS, (re-elected,) *Grand High Priest.*
Companion J. EMMETT BLACKSHEAR, *Grand Secretary.*

ILLINOIS.

The Twenty-third Annual Convocation was held at Chicago, October 24, 1872, Most Excellent Grand High Priest JAMES A. HAWLEY presiding, who delivered an interesting address, from which we extract the following regarding their great fire; and, although the great conflagration has passed into history, their terrible suffering and distress will make the theme an interesting one for generations to come. Happily at this day, thanks to their indomitable energy and clear intelligence, we can speak of the "great fire" now as showing the immense courage and perseverance of our Western Companions as an example for the faint-hearted to follow:

"The year, which has been so mercifully crowned with plenty, opened with disaster followed by fresh disaster in quick succession. Scarcely had the sound of the gavel that closed our last Convocation ceased to echo through the halls of our then Masonic home, when this city was visited by one of the most terrific and devastating conflagrations ever known in the history of the world. In a few hours the work of years was undone—nothing was left but crumbling stones and broken columns where had stood stately warehouses filled with costly merchandise from every quarter of the globe. Palatial mansions, surrounded with every comfort and luxury that art could devise or wealth secure, and beautiful temples consecrated to the worship of the living God—all were consumed in that mighty cauldron of flame and fire. The old Masonic Temple, dear to our hearts with associations of many years, and hallowed by the tread of many a noble Companion now removed to the Lodge on high—with many sister shrines, was a heap of ruins. But for losses such as these we had no time to mourn. The numbers of our brethren, with their families, turned helpless into the streets without food or shelter, demanded all our sympathy. We can never forget the painful emotions that thrilled our hearts as the sad news was flashed over our State that a large portion of the city we had but just left was destroyed. Neither can we forget how our hearts swelled with

joy, pride and gratitude as we witnessed the noble generosity of the members of our Order in all parts of the country—tendering sympathy and material aid, and vieing with each other in their efforts to afford prompt and efficient relief.

“ My first official act was to call upon the Companions of this State to come with their offerings to the relief of our unfortunate brethren, and I desire to acknowledge with thanks the generous contributions which were so freely given.

“ The sympathy and prompt assistance so fraternally tendered to our brethren by the Chapters and Companions of other jurisdictions, cannot fail to call forth our warmest expressions of gratitude, and I trust that this Grand Chapter will, in such manner as in its wisdom may seem best, express its appreciation of the brotherly love whose principles have been so truly exemplified during the past year by ‘acts of charity and deeds of pure beneficence.’ ”

The following we entirely agree with :

“ *Fourth.* That objections made by a Companion in the Chapter of which he is a member to the advancement of a brother, cannot be removed by striking the name of the Companion objecting from the list of members, although said Companion may reside without the State.

“ The right of objection, as recognized by the laws of our Grand Chapter, is a sacred right; and yet, in my opinion, it is a right that, while it is carefully guarded, should be confined strictly to the letter of the law. By its exercise in the broad sense which some are willing to give it, it is more potent and powerful than the ballot itself. In making the fourth decision I was aware that Resolution 14 was staring me in the face, and that the decision was—indirectly, if not directly—in conflict with said resolution.

“ This resolution authorizes, yea, it *requires*, the Chapters of this jurisdiction to force from their membership those of our Companions who see fit to cross an imaginary line and take up their residence in another State. But believing as I do that this resolution is contrary to the spirit of our institution, and that its enforcement would be doing great injustice to very many excellent and worthy Companions along the borders of our State, I could not do otherwise than decide—so far as I was compelled to do in this decision—adversely to its enforcement. In my opinion, Chapters should be required to pay Grand Chapter dues for all their members, whether residing in or out of the State. I can see no good reason why a Companion who chooses to reside in another State should be compelled to sever his connection with a Chapter in this jurisdiction. Neither can I see any good reason why a Companion who is a member of a Chapter in this jurisdiction, and resides in another State, should be exempted from bearing his share of the Masonic burdens, or that the Chapter of which he is a member should be relieved from paying its just proportion of the expenses of this Grand Body; and

I therefore respectfully, but earnestly, recommend that Resolutions 14 and 15 be rescinded."

The Committee on Charity made full reports, and full acknowledgment to all Companions for their generous assistance in their suffering after the great fire.

The proceedings of this Grand Chapter are very tastefully gotten up,—printed on delicate, tinted paper, and neatly and beautifully arranged and executed.

The Report on Foreign Correspondence is by Companion James H. Miles, who gives copious extracts, but very brief comments. Pennsylvania for 1871 is barely noticed. We do not think we stand high at court in that quarter. We quote as follows:

"Pennsylvania has a way of her own, and the transactions before us do not give much insight into that way. The officers for the year were elected at the quarterly in November and installed at the annual in December, at which time the retiring and incoming High Priests delivered lengthy addresses."

However, as the above extract is one of the longest original paragraphs in the report, we must be fairly thankful for the attention, and if Companion Miles will only inform us what he desires to know, we will do our best to enlighten him.

Companion ASA W. BLAKESLEY, *Grand High Priest.*

Companion JAMES H. MILES, *Grand Secretary.*

INDIANA.

The Twenty-seventh Annual Convocation was held at Indianapolis, October 23, 1872, Most Excellent Grand High Priest REES J. CHESTNUTWOOD presiding.

The Grand High Priest delivered an address, giving a very circumstantial account of his labors for the year, which shows him to be an industrious and faithful officer.

They want to do things in the short way in Indiana, as the following resolution would indicate:

"On motion of Companion Hacker, it was *Resolved*, That all business proper to be submitted to any one of the Standing Committees, be so referred without reading."

We cannot agree with the above, as it introduces a race-horse way of doing things, which tends to carelessness and often leads to unintentional injustice. All matters of whatever nature proper to be brought before the Grand Chapter could be read by their titles

at least, and then disposition effected in the body of the Grand Chapter in say fifteen to twenty minutes, which, as a question of time, would be so small as to preclude the argument of importance. Every one present could hear what the subject matter was, have the papers read if he or they wished, and then referred where they properly belong. To our mind it would show more system and care, and we doubt not in the end largely pay for the trouble.

The following, from the Committee to whom was referred the subject, we insert as a matter of justice to the Most Excellent Grand High Priest, and in our opinion is fully justified by the report:

“The Committee on Foreign Correspondence have carefully examined the able and elaborate report submitted by the Most Excellent Grand High Priest on that subject, and recommend that it be incorporated in the proceedings of the Grand Chapter, as a faithful *resume* of the proceedings of the several Grand Chapters in correspondence with us. The report contains much that will be found instructive and of interest to all the Craft.”

The following we quote as showing that our Companions in Indiana have good officers, and know how to appreciate them:

“Your Special Committee, to whom was referred the matter of the presentation by Companion Hacker of an elegantly bound volume of the proceedings of the General Grand Chapter of the United States, would say that this Grand Chapter would fail to do its duty if it closed its labors without some proper recognition of the eminent services of Past Grand High Priest William Hacker. We wish it spread upon the records of our proceedings, that the whole Craft may become cognizant of his earnest devotion to, and continual labor for the Craft.

“The complete records of the Grand Chapter of the United States have been presented to us, which fills the only vacancy in our records of all the General Grand Masonic bodies. They have been collected with great care, and at considerable expense, by our Excellent Companion. The Committee, therefore, recommend the adoption of the following resolutions:

“*Resolved*, That the thanks of this Grand Chapter be presented to Past Grand High Priest William Hacker for the valuable services rendered this Grand Chapter, and the whole Masonic fraternity, in the preservation of the records of this Grand Body, and of the General Grand Chapter of the United States, and the presentation of the same to this Chapter.

“*Resolved*, That said documents be carefully preserved by the Grand Secretary, in the safe in his office, and under no circumstances be permitted to be loaned or taken from his custody.”

The Report on Correspondence was prepared by Most Excellent Companion R. J. Chesnutwood. In his review of Louisiana he says as follows:

"Now in my humble judgment, if drunkenness be a crime worthy of censure, certainly the drunkard maker is no less so. I have no apology for this class of our community. In noticing the want of action of the Grand High Priest in relation to Foreign Correspondence, our brother is so unfraternal, if not ungentlemanly, that I take no further notice of it, except to apologize to my Companions of Indiana in withholding from them the grand illumination they may have enjoyed from the pen of our good brother and Companion J. P. Hornor."

We do not think the position or language of Companion Hornor is such as to justify Companion Chesnutwood in closing his case so summarily, and indeed we very much regret at any time to find our reporters take such ground, as it at least has the appearance of unkind feeling. Let us remember, my Companions, that it is "our duty to admonish an erring brother kindly," and endeavor by forbearance to bring him to the right fold. Companions Hornor and Chesnutwood are entirely too intelligent and good to have them separated by any imaginary offence committed by either of them, or by their jurisdiction.

Speaking of New Jersey, he says as follows, which we think is good:

"The Report on Foreign Correspondence is by Companion T. J. Corson. He reviews the proceedings of thirty-six Grand Chapters, and gives an interesting detail of their condition and doings. Indiana is among them. Companion Corson queries why we call the place of our meeting a Grand Hall. Answer—Because it is so."

In his review of Pennsylvania he gives us a very fair and frank notice. The following we think strange, and would suggest that, if our Companion meant what is said in the last sentence, he would try and remedy the defect. *We won't object.*

"The correspondence between Most Excellent Companion Meyer and Most Excellent Companion Hughan would no doubt be interesting to many of the Companions of our subordinates if they could be placed in their hands, which can easily be accomplished by giving them space in our printed proceedings."

Why don't you have said correspondence printed then?

Companion EDEN H. DAVIS, *Grand High Priest.*

Companion JNO. H. BRAMWELL, *Grand Secretary.*

IOWA.

The Eighteenth Annual Convocation was held at Oskaloosa, October 16, 1872, Most Excellent Grand High Priest Companion E. A. GUILBERT presiding, who delivered an address. The following we extract, and confess to some surprise that the Grand High Priest's experience should justify such assertion:

"During the year I have granted quite a number of special dispensations to subordinate Chapters to receive and act upon petitions out of time. I hold that the probation of one month required by our present law is entirely unnecessary. Chapters are as well prepared on the night a petition is presented, to ballot upon Master Mason applicants, as they are one month thereafter, and I see no reason why the probation should be required by this Grand Body. I think it would be better, in every way, to abrogate the law, and allow the ballot to be had, as is done in the Commanderies, on the night the petition is presented. I respectfully recommend these views to your careful consideration."

The following answer comes from his own Chapter, and we think is full and complete; it is extracted from the report of the Committee to whom was referred the Grand High Priest's address:

"In the matter of special dispensations to ballot for and confer degrees out of time, your Committee are of the opinion that such warrants should be issued with the greatest care, and only then where the circumstances of the particular case clearly show that such departure from the general rule would be beneficial. We hold that, whenever in the good judgment of the M. E. Grand High Priest a proper case arises wherein he is justified in issuing such dispensation, it should be the duty of the High Priest of the Chapter receiving the same, to notify, in writing, every Companion thereof, and of the time of the balloting upon the petition, to the end that every member may be fully cognizant of all the facts in the case. Your Committee are also of opinion that the old rule, which requires a petition to be laid over for one month before balloting thereon, is a wise regulation, and ought to be adhered to. In our opinion, it is the only safe way, and thus every member may have knowledge thereof, and cannot complain of undue haste."

The following decision was made by the Grand High Priest, *and if correct*, we commend it especially to the consideration of the advocates of the General Grand Chapter:

"*First Query.* 'The General Grand Chapter, whose laws we are obligated to stand to and abide by, says we *may* use substitutes; our own Grand Chapter says we *shall not*. Which authority shall we obey?'

“*Answer.* The laws of the Grand Chapter of Iowa are *literally* to be obeyed. The action of the General Grand Chapter on any matter, according to its organic law, is merely advisory. It has, as I can conceive, no power to establish work regulations for the government of State Grand Chapters. The clause in the O.·.B.·. referring to the General Grand Chapter was put there before 1859, at which time that central organization ceased to be a governing body, and subsided into the position of an *umpire*. In my judgment that clause has no business in the O.·.B.·. *now*. The law of our Grand Chapter is positive, and needs no interpreter on this question. I should deem it my duty to arrest the jewel of any High Priest of our obedience who might be reported to me as violating the rule under discussion.”

The following we extract, and commend it to the consideration of all Grand Chapters:

“*Resolved, as a general regulation,* That no Chapter in this jurisdiction shall retain any Companion as a member in good standing who is not affiliated with some Lodge, but that if he has dimitted from his Lodge, he shall occupy a corresponding position in reference to his Chapter.”

The Committee on Jurisprudence reported it for favorable action, with the following modification:

“Beg leave to report advising the adoption thereof, with the following amendment, viz.: That it shall be of force in cases of a continued dimission of one year, or where the party has not applied for membership in a Lodge upon his dimit and been rejected; recommendations contained in the report of the Committee on Address of the Most Excellent Grand High Priest having rendered such action necessary.”

The Report on Correspondence is again by Companion U. D. Taylor. The comments are terse and pungent—fearless in his criticism when he differs, warm and just in his praise when he approves. He quotes largely from Pennsylvania for 1871. We are sorry not to be able to quote as we have marked, but space forbids. We cannot refrain, however, from quoting the following from Wisconsin, with which we agree:

“One hundred and fifty dollars were appropriated for the relief of an ‘entirely destitute’ Companion—a most laudable object; but his name must also needs be published to the Masonic (and *un*-masonic, if they choose to examine this report) world. Now, we do, in the name of all that is good in charity, protest against this practice; it is unjust, unmasonic, unchristian, ungenerous, and unkind. Every subordinate Chapter can be informed by their

representative for what purpose, and to whom the moneys were appropriated, so the suppression of the name in the published proceedings would work no wrong. But on the other hand, think, oh, my friend, how would you like to read in a book that you knew could be found in almost every library in the country, that *your* father 'had been assisted for the past two years by the Lodge and Chapter in,' &c., &c.? We do not speak so feelingly on this subject for the reason that we, or our 'father, or our father's father,' have ever received such assistance—God grant we never may; but He only knows how soon we may, and *should* that time ever come, we are very sure we would rather starve than leave *such* an inheritance to *our* children."

Companion EDWARD A. GUILBERT, (re-elected,) *Grand High Priest.*

Companion WILLIAM B. LANGRIDGE, (re-elected,) *Grand Secretary.*

KENTUCKY.

The Fifty-seventh Annual Communication was held in the City of Louisville, October 21, 1872, Most Excellent Grand High Priest J. P. RASCOE presiding.

The Grand High Priest delivered a brief but good address, a part of which was devoted to eulogy of Companion Philip Swigert, who was their faithful Grand Secretary for upwards of half a century. We extract the following with the single remark, that how well for us, after we have shuffled off this mortal coil, our friends can speak of us as Companion Rascoe did of Companion Swigert:

"As a Mason he was true and faithful; wise to counsel, and prompt to execute. Contemplate him in his true light, with undeviating fidelity in the discharge of duty, the blending of mildness with lion-like energy, living a life of unsullied integrity, terminating in the midst of an old age, which was brightened by a conscious performance of duty and a full belief of resting in peace with his Heavenly Father. The memory then of those whose lives were models of virtue, whose deaths were triumphs of piety, whose tombs syllable forth monitions to the living, and whose spirits have passed from the *outer* to the *inner vail* and entered upon the unfading visions of the *Upper Temple*, should be held in veneration. I doubt not that this Grand Chapter will aid in the mournful but grateful duty of perpetuating his memory."

With regard to uniformity, the following was reported and subsequently rejected, adopting the second resolution:

"Your Committee, appointed at the last Annual Convocation of

this Grand Chapter, to devise a system whereby the work would become uniform throughout this jurisdiction, respectfully report, that after mature deliberation and consultation, they believe the best mode to arrive at this much desired end is to have a Lecturer, or rather a District Deputy Grand High Priest, for each Congressional District in the State. This would make ten Lecturers for the State, giving an average of fourteen counties to each.

Resolved, That the Grand High Priest appoint a District Deputy Grand High Priest for each Congressional District in this State.

Resolved, That the Chapters subordinate to this Grand Chapter be and they are hereby recommended to use 'Mackey's Book of the Chapter.'

We think, Companions, you have made a mistake by your action. We speak by the card when we tell you that a system of District Deputy Grand High Priests properly administered will work well, and any system of written work put into the hands of the officers of various Chapters will work ill. We would suggest that you district your State, make careful selection of your deputies, of course appointing only Past High Priests, and only those whom you are sure will have the time and the energy to attend to their duties, and are thoroughly posted in the work. After they have got fairly in harness, make grand visitations in force, (we assume, of course, your Grand Officers know the work perfectly,) and exemplify the work for them, or have them do the work in your presence, so errors may be corrected if any exist, and give them instruction if they desire or require it, and you may rest assured you will have no cause to regret either the expense or trouble of the experiment.

A motion was made to resume relations with the General Grand Chapter, consideration of which was deferred until the next Annual Communication. A Committee was appointed to prepare a proper biography of Companion Swigert, and right well they did their duty. It does us good to see the hearty manner in which our Kentucky Companions united in paying proper respect to that good man's character and virtues, and we think the proceedings reflect infinite credit upon that Grand Chapter, as well as upon the Companions who did their part so well.

The Report on Correspondence was again presented by Companion H. A. M. Henderson, and reviews the proceedings of twenty-seven Grand Chapters in his usual excellent style. From Indiana we clip the following, and fully agree with the last part of it:

"The Twenty-sixth Communication was held at Logansport, October 18, 1871. Companion Rees J. Chesnutwood, Grand High Priest, presided. In his address he sounds a timely note of alarm. He does not fear the anti-Mason fanatics. He thinks the danger is within. We are becoming too popular. Our strength does not consist in the quantity, but the quality of the members. In this we fully concur. Ten well-drilled soldiers, constituting a single platoon, of high *morale* are worth more to an army than a company of raw recruits. A general does not reckon the strength of his army by the number of men he can muster on parade, but by the patriot *warriors* he can lead to battle. Thousands in our Order are never present at our schools of instruction, and hence remain ignorant of our ritual and indifferent to our principles; they are never seen when work, sympathy, or relief is wanted: but let a festival be given, the gay regalias and banners be brought out, and then it is perfectly splendid to see *how they can march and eat.*"

The first part of the above would imply that numbers are objectionable in our Fraternity. We think exactly the reverse. We hold that all *good* men in the community would be benefited by affiliation with us, and we are sure our institution would be benefited by their joining. We know that questionable material sometimes gets in, and we regret it, but after all it is our own fault. We are sure Companion Henderson in reading the reports will be struck with the large (comparative) number of dispensations which are granted by those in authority to confer the degrees without any inquiry, except the testimony offered by those who are anxious to get him in, which, to say the least, is of doubtful utility as being either influenced by affection *or* something worse, and should not be accepted as of value. Again, committees are too often lax in their duty, even when appointed regularly, failing to make the inquiry—*Is he a good blue Mason?* And thus we again suffer. We take the position that no brother has a right to ask advancement in our Order except he has shown proficiency in what he has received and proper appreciation of it, and if committees would make a rule that they would report against any one who failed in that respect, we should soon get in a position that the cry of numbers would not scare us, and small Chapters would be unknown, as the inducement for good men to "seek more light" would be so palpable that they would not hesitate, as they now do, in joining.

The following we extract from his review of Oregon, and we think it true to the letter:

"Our observation of professional Masonic lecturers is that they get

up some pretty conceits of their own, clothed in pompous rhetoric, and act a drama for the entertainment of the Lodge, or Chapter, instead of exemplifying the actual, simple, unadorned work as it has come down the ages, generally closing with the recitation of some fascinating verses, and the brethren, or Companions, generally go away pleased with the show, but no wiser than before. All this is corrupting, and opens hedges through which all kinds of dramatic composition and pantomime may enter to destroy the ancient simplicity and rugged sublimity of Masonry. This charlatanic vamp-
ing is that which we so strenuously object to."

Companion WILLIAM RYAN, *Grand High Priest.*

Companion J. M. S. McCORKLE, (re-elected,) *Grand Secretary.*

LOUISIANA.

The Twenty-sixth Annual Grand Convocation was held in the city of New Orleans, February 11, 1873, Most Excellent Grand High Priest MICHAEL ELOI GIRARD presiding, who delivered an address principally of a local nature. We extract the following:

"I have received a communication dated October 25, 1872, from Eminent Companion C. F. Merrick, High Priest of Natchez Royal Arch Chapter, No. 1, Mississippi, and at his request, submit the matter to you for your consideration. In this communication, he requested that I should grant to Natchez Royal Arch Chapter, in the State of Mississippi, the privilege or authority of receiving and acting upon petitions for the capitular degrees from Master Masons hailing from Concordia parish, Louisiana. He also states that for a number of years past, they have believed that our Grand Chapter had ceded to them jurisdiction over the parish of Concordia, as far back even as the time when Most Excellent Companion Thomas H. Lewis was Grand High Priest of Louisiana, (which would date from 1848 to 1854.) They have acted upon that belief and have exalted to the Holy Royal Arch, Masons hailing from Louisiana, residing in Concordia parish, and without the consent or knowledge of the Louisiana Chapter having legitimate and exclusive jurisdiction over the applicant.

"I answered this communication of Eminent Companion Merrick, stating that I had no authority whatever to grant such a request, and that I did not think that the Grand Chapter even could grant it; because not only it is well understood that the true spirit and meaning of all Masonic law on the subject of jurisdiction of Grand Bodies determines and regulates that jurisdiction by the respective State lines, and makes it co-extensive with those lines, but by the Constitution of the General Grand Chapter, Article II, Section 3, it is provided 'that the jurisdiction of the State Grand Chapters shall in no case be construed to extend beyond the limits of the State, except by consent of the General Grand Chapter,' and no Grand

Chapter can pass any edict or resolution contrary to that provision, the jurisdiction of a State Grand Chapter could not be restricted, nor extended beyond the State lines, without the concurrence of the General Grand Chapter."

And on the secrecy of the ballot, as follows :

"There is a subject of much importance, in my opinion, connected with the secrecy of the ballot, which I think deserves your attentive and serious consideration. It is universally admitted that the secrecy of the ballot is the safest bulwark of the Masonic Order ; that it is the inherent right and the duty of every Mason to exercise his privilege of the ballot whenever an opinion should be expressed by that mode, and he cannot and should not directly or indirectly be questioned about it. Yet I believe that one of our general regulations contains a provision which sometimes militates against those vital principles, in requiring the members of Committees of Investigation on application for initiation or affiliation, to make a written report of the result of their investigation.

"To illustrate this, let us suppose that one of the members of the Committee report unfavorably on the application referred to his Committee and a black ball is cast ; the natural and irresistible inference is that he cast it, and the secrecy of that ballot is destroyed : the friends of the applicant cannot but suspect him as the one who put in that black ball, hence may arise much bad feeling. This indeed has happened.

"Suppose again that, at some future time, the applicant who had been rejected, and upon whose application one of the Committee had reported unfavorably, should renew his application and be this time accepted : he in due time becomes a member ; he enquires about his first application, and seeing the written report of the Committee, finds the unfavorable report of one of them, and he cannot help suspecting very strongly that member of having black-balled him. This must give him cause to feel aggrieved. Is this not wrong and in direct violation not only of the secrecy of the ballot, but of all Masonic doctrines and teachings which direct us to avoid all that may tend to produce discord or want of harmony ?

"Formerly, there were no Committees of Investigation, or rather the whole body was constituted the Committee of Investigation : each member was charged with the duty of making due enquiry as to the moral character and qualifications of the candidate, in order that each should vote understandingly upon the application, and no written or verbal report was required or looked for. I think it were better to return to that mode of action, which ensures an absolute certainty of preserving the secrecy of the ballot. Thus an application, when received, would stand referred to the whole Chapter for investigation, and it would be the duty of each and every member to make due enquiries and perform for himself the duties of a special Investigating Committee, as if he were the only one charged with

that most important duty. Doubtless there would be at least three, if not more, of the members who would consider it their duty to make due and proper enquiries, and if there was a Chapter in which there could not be found three members who would feel enough of Masonic spirit to perform that duty properly, the sooner that Chapter would cease its labors, the better it would be for the Order, for it would not be composed of such men as should constitute a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons: all know that if a Mason or a number of Masons will not do the work of the Chapter cheerfully, whatever it may be, when it is specially assigned to them to do, they must look upon it as a thankless task, and we cannot expect it to be done properly and masonically.

“I believe that in many instances, the members of the Chapter rely solely upon the report of the Special Committee for their guide in casting their ballot; and if a Committee has been remiss in the performance of their duty, and bad material is received, of course they would lay the blame solely upon this Committee; but let the blame attach where it may, still the wrong has been done, and many have cast their ballots knowing nothing of him whom they were voting for, and having made no enquiry, have accepted the action and report of the Committee as a finality.

“Is not this Special Committee an invention of modern Masonry engrafted upon the craft from a desire to cast off on a few, say three only, the important duties and delicate responsibilities of a full, complete and satisfactory enquiry into the antecedents and fitness of an applicant, and absolve from that duty, considered perhaps a task, the large number of the members who should all perform the duties and share the solidarity attached to their membership, and who, when they vote, should each act from their knowledge and upon his individual responsibility, so that the fault, when any bad material is received, may be laid where it properly belongs, to each and every member.

“By abolishing the Special Committee, especially the written report, and referring the matter to all the members, I feel confident that there would be at least *three* out of the whole number of the members who would attend cheerfully to the duty; the work would be fully as well if not better done than it is now; we would be sure that we do not break down, or at least impair one of our most efficient rules of action in the protection of the Chapter and Craft against the introduction of unworthy material; and also effectually protect the member in his inherent right of not being questioned directly or indirectly about the ballot he may have cast, by avoiding all possibility of its being known, or even suspected, how any one may have voted on an application.”

The Report on Correspondence is again by Companion Joseph P. Hornor, and is fully up to his usual excellent standard. The Grand Chapter of Louisiana have shown their appreciation of our

Companion's labors, knowledge and general fitness, by electing him Grand High Priest—than whom no fitter man could they have found. They also by special vote requested him to continue to act as Chairman of the Committee on Correspondence—two compliments at one session, either of which in our judgment should make the Companion happy.

We insert as his opinion of Indiana, which we noticed on page 399.

"In our opinion, it is the abuse and not the use of anything that is given to us in this world which constitutes a crime; and if a man should be expelled from Masonry because he sells liquor which makes other men drunk, so should a druggist be expelled because he sells poison by which men kill themselves. A hundred other instances, it seems to us, might be adduced to show the simple absurdity of the course pursued by our Companions in Florida and Indiana on this subject. Again, we say that we cannot understand why Masonry should be attempted to be converted into a total abstinence society; why the private habits of members of the Order, in their business and social relations, should be so strictly inquired into as to prohibit members of the fraternity from engaging in certain kinds of business. Might it not be just as well urged that he who sells a pistol with which one man may kill another, is just as guilty as he who sells liquor to be used, perhaps, by a third or fourth person, or even to be used immediately? Can the results be said to be more disastrous in one case than in another? And if we are wrong in this, and it is the mission of Masonry to provoke investigation into the private conduct of its members, where is this to stop? Would it not lead to the re-enactment of the old Blue Laws, which directed how often a man might kiss his wife on Sunday, or what he should have for dinner? And would not all this be impracticable? Temperance is defined by the most ancient of Masonic writers, as that due restraint upon our affections and passions which renders the body tame and governable, and frees the mind from the allurements of vice, and which teaches us to avoid *excess*. And so it is laid down to this day in all Masonic monitors, used in all our lodges. But where can our zealous brethren find any Masonic authority, which prohibits the use of wine or spirits? Does not, indeed, all our Masonic history tell us that the use of exhilarating beverages has been common in the fraternity from its first establishment? Do we not know from history, that there has always been a convivial side to Masonry? Does not the very fact that we are not always at labor, but sometimes at refreshment, conclusively show that we are not always expected to hold a tight rein over ourselves, and behave as though we were about immediately to be called to judgment? In fact, would not the theory of total abstinence abolish all good feeling, bring us all to labor more, and to enjoy our-

selves less, and at last arrive at that stage so aptly described by the homely poet—

“‘All work and no play
Makes Jack a dull boy.’”

Pennsylvania for 1871 is reviewed in a fraternal manner.

Companion JAMES P. HORNOR, *Grand High Priest.*

Companion J. C. BATCHELOR, *Grand Secretary.*

MAINE.

The Annual Convocation was held in Portland, May 6, 1873, Most Excellent Grand High Priest Companion JOHN W. BALLOU presiding. In his address, which, by the way, is very good, we find the following, with which we think all will agree:

“I have received the report of Right Eminent Henry R. Taylor, District Deputy Grand High Priest for the Sixth Masonic District. He says: ‘I have one or more times visited all the Chapters in this district, either for installation of officers, witnessing work, or meeting in council for reciprocal information and instruction. All are in good condition, but none have done a large amount of work;’ and we all must agree with him when he says: ‘but *quantity* is a wretched criterion to apply to Masonic progress or usefulness, and I trust it will never alone define the capitular degrees of Masonry.’”

The report of the Grand Secretary, which we quote in full, is certainly a model of brevity, but we doubt if entirely satisfactory:

“ PORTLAND, May 6, 1873.

“ *To the Most Excellent Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Maine:*

“Your Secretary has only to report the performance of ordinary duties pertaining to his station, which have been attended to as occasion arose. The proceedings have been recorded, printed and distributed; diplomas and other blanks furnished as required; communications replied to, and commissions made. The records are submitted for inspection.

IRA BERRY, *Grand Secretary.*”

The following we find in their proceedings in relation to our beloved John Wilson, Jr., which we cordially thank them for:

“*Resolved*, That this Grand Chapter condole with the Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania upon the loss by death of Most Excellent Companion John Wilson, Jr., their Grand King and our Representative near that Grand Chapter; and that a page in our proceedings suitably inscribed be devoted to his memory.”

The Report on Correspondence was presented by Companion Stephen J. Young, who succeeds Companion Josiah Drummond, and

bating his modesty, we think is a very good report. We quote the following from his review of the District of Columbia, upon the question of the responsibility of Grand Chapters on the reports of Committees on Correspondence, and we think they are sound :

“ It seems to us that the report must always be held to represent the views of the Committee, without entailing any responsibility upon the respective Grand Chapters. If it were necessary to have it endorsed by the Chapter before publication, it would frequently be impossible to issue it with the proceedings of that year. Subjects arise which demand extended investigation and discussion, involving more time and patience than Grand Chapters usually have. The free discussion among reporters which is now the very point of interest in their reports, would be impossible, and a dogmatic system would take its place. Let us discuss everything fully before committing ourselves to the views of any body of men. We hope that the Grand Chapters will not tie the hands of their reporters by insisting upon assuming responsibility for the views of their Committees on Foreign Correspondence.”

The following communication taken from the Report of Massachusetts, explains itself:

“ CAMBRIDGE, September 4, 1872.

“ *To the Most Excellent Alfred F. Chapman, Grand High Priest of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Massachusetts :*

“ DEAR COMPANION CHAPMAN:—The general questions you were pleased to submit to me concerning the exact meaning and signification of the words Jah, or Jehovah, Bel, or Baal, and On, together with the more special questions as to whether Baal was formerly used to designate Satan, and On was simply and solely the name of an Egyptian city; assisted, and in conjunction with my friend, the Rev. E. J. Young, Professor of Hebrew and Oriental languages in Harvard University, I have carefully examined and considered, and would beg to submit the following as the result of our joint investigations. Quotations given from languages other than the English I have translated, in most cases, omitting the original.

“ Concerning the signification of Jah or Jehovah, * there can be no difference of opinion. It was the name of the Supreme Deity among the Hebrews; it is derived from the verb meaning *to be*; and referred to God as the *eternal immutable*. See Gesenius, Schenkel, Cassel, Winer, Herzog, Delitzsch, Kitto, Davidson, Smith, and others.

“ The meaning of Bel, or Baal, is equally unquestionable. The name is derived from the Hebrew verb (baal), which means to be lord or master over anything. It was the name of a tutelary god of the Phenicians, Tyrians and Hebrews of Samaria. See

* The Hebrew and Greek characters are necessarily omitted.

Gesenius, Winer, Schenkel, Buxtorf, Kitto, or any standard authority or common encyclopedia. It would be easy to quote authorities and give extracts *ad infinitum* on this point, but I will cite only three, from works in our own language, easily accessible to all.

“Gesenius’ Hebrew and English Lexicon, p. 146, says: ‘Baal, *i. e.* the lord . . . (by pre-eminence), as the name of a chief domestic and tutelary god of the Phenicians, and particularly of the Tyrians: worshipped also by the Hebrews, especially of Samaria, with great pomp, along with Astarte.’

“Smith’s Dictionary of the Bible, edited by Hackett & Abbott, vol. 1, p. 200, says: ‘Baal, the supreme male divinity of the Phenician and Canaanitish nations, as Ashtaroth was their supreme female deity.’

“New American Encyclopedia, vol. 2, p. 436, article ‘Baal,’ says: ‘This word (Baal) is of Phenician origin, and signifies lord or ruler, and was used to designate the supreme deity by the Phenicians and the Chaldeans, and most of the oriental nations of the time of the Exodus.’

“That Baal and Bel are synonymous, Bel being the Chaldaic form and the Babylonian name of the God Baal, may be seen by reference to Gesenius, Fürst, Buxtorf, and others.

“Baal or Bel, then, is recognized by all our oriental scholars as being the name under which many of the early nations worshipped God or a god; and the statement reported to have been made at the last meeting of the General Grand Chapter, that it was the name of the devil, has, apparently, not the slightest foundation; in fact, is not alluded to in so far as I can ascertain by any authority whatever; certainly in no standard authority of the present day.

“On . . . or . . . was both the name of an Egyptian city and the Coptic name for light, or the sun. As the name of an Egyptian city, it was called by the Hebrews, Bethshemesh, or ‘house of the sun.’ By the Greeks, Heliopolis, or ‘city of the sun.’ By the Arabs, Ainsheems, or ‘fountain of the sun,’ and it was celebrated for the worship and temple of the sun, one of the gods of the Egyptians.

“The primitive meaning of On, however, was sun, or light, and under the name On, the ancient Egyptians worshipped God. To the fact that On meant the sun or light, we have the testimonies of Cyril (Bishop of Alexandria), Jablonski, Champollion, August Knobel, Gesenius, Ritter, Winer, Herzog, Hamburger, Kitto, and many others. In proof of this, I will give a few, from many references that I have collected, principally from English and German authorities.

“Gesenius, in his Thesaurus, p. 52, says: ‘. . . (On). Gen. 41: 50, 41, . . . 45, 46: 20. A proper name of an ancient Egyptian city, Ezek. 30: 17, called by the Hebrews ‘house of the sun,’ Jeremiah 43: 13; by the Greeks Heliopolis, by the Arabs ‘fountain of the sun.’ In Coptic books it is constantly called ——— (see

Exodus 1: 11; Ezek. 30: 17; Gen. 41: 45), and On, without scarcely any doubt 'signified, in the old language, light, especially the sun.'

"Dr. Freid Tuch, Com. on Genesis, p. 448, 1871, quoting Cyrill of Alexandria, says: Cyrill on Hosea, p. 145, says: '..... (sc.) (On, which is according to them, *i. e.* the Egyptians, the sun,) which is confirmed by the Coptic O E I N, light, sunlight, in Jablonski Panth. I, p. 137; Ap. I, p. 185; Champollion, C' Eg. Phar. II, p. 41; in Hieroglyphic—Champ. Ægypt, p. 79.

"Dr. G. B. Winer, Biblisches Real-Worterbuch, I, 175, says: 'In Egyptian, On means light, sun.'

"Kitto, Cyclopædia of Biblical Literature, vol. 3, p. 365, says: 'On is a Coptic and ancient Egyptian word, signifying light and the sun.'

"Lastly, Herzog, in his Real Encyclopædia, X, 610, says: 'This worship (of On) was, without doubt, the most spiritual of all the Egyptian worship; this priesthood was, without doubt, not only the most influential in the State, but also the most fitted to draw a worshipper of Jehovah into its circle; 'since On was the city of the temple of the sun, and On, in Coptic and old Egyptian, means sunlight.'

"In conclusion, permit me to say that I have examined these questions, not as a Mason but as a scholar. The authorities to whom I have referred are scholars who are masonically unknown, and whose opinions on these and similar questions are of the very highest authority, and their opinions on the questions submitted by you to me for examination are,

"First. That Jah or Jehovah was the name by which the Hebrews knew the Supreme Deity, and signified the *eternal*, the *immutable*.

"Second. That Bel, Baal, was worshipped both as the Supreme God, and a god, by many of the early nations, such as the Phenicians, Tyrians, Babylonians and Hebrews; and there is no evidence to show that it was ever applied to Satan.

"Third. On was the name both of an Egyptian city, celebrated for its temple and worship of the sun, and also of the sun and light itself; and by that name God was anciently worshipped.

Most sincerely and fraternally yours,
JOHN P. BLAND, B. D."

Also the following resolution by that Grand Chapter; and yet we are asked to join a body that, in several of its leading features, are totally disregarded in the Grand Chapters, who seem to be its most ardent supporters:

"In consequence of the report, which is in entire conformity with the results reached by Companion Bland, the Grand Chapter adopted the following recommendation:

"We therefore recommend that this Grand Chapter continue to instruct in the ritual in the future, as it has in the past, believing that the interests of Royal Arch Masonry will be best promoted by protecting the landmarks against innovation, and transmitting unimpaired the traditions received from the founders of the Order in the Old World as well as in the New.

"It is also recommended, that it will not violate any allegiance to this Grand Chapter, if its subordinates shall instruct their members in the way and manner of the change attempted to be made by the General Grand Chapter; to the end that they may be skilled workers wherever they may visit."

Pennsylvania for 1872 is fraternally noticed.

Companion HORACE H. BURBANK, *Grand High Priest.*

Companion IRA BERRY, (re-elected,) *Grand Secretary.*

MARYLAND.

The Annual Convocation was held in the City of Baltimore, November 11, 1872, Most Excellent Grand High Priest Companion GEORGE L. McCAHAN presiding, who delivered an address of considerable length and interest, from which we extract the following:

"It has been the custom of the Grand Lecturer, in accordance with the resolution of this Grand Chapter, to visit those of the Chapters outside of the City of Baltimore as expressed a desire for instruction, once a year. This is not often enough to secure prompt establishment of the revised work, and I would urge the adoption of such liberal measures as will secure to the Chapters the instruction that many, from their isolated situations, require."

Why not visit them yourself, with your Grand Officers, my Companion; that's the way to secure uniformity of work.

The following, as a part of the history of Royal Arch Masonry in Maryland, we insert as a matter of interest to all:

"I regret exceedingly having to state that none of the records or papers of the Grand Chapter prior to 1814 can be found, and also my inability to form a satisfactory theory for their disappearance from the custody of the Grand Chapter. Could the original charters of Chapters Nos. 1, 2 and 3 be produced, invaluable light would be shed upon the history of Royal Arch Masonry in Maryland, and I appeal to the Royal Arch Masons of the jurisdiction, especially those who may be descendants of Companions Eckel, Edes, Niles, Robinson or Stapleton, to endeavor to discover and restore to the Grand Secretary any papers that are or might prove of value in tracing the history of this Grand Chapter. The records from 1814 to the present time—both written and printed—are intact.

“The subject of the Council Degrees has been so often before this Grand Chapter, that I doubt if I could overcome my reluctance to speak of them were it not that I am imbued with the hope that the legislation in regard to them will be final.

“This Grand Chapter became a member of the General Grand Chapter of the United States in the year 1816, under the express agreement that it should not be forced to alter its mode of working—the Council Degrees being then as now conferred, prior to the Royal Arch.

“Companion Philip P. Eckel claimed the control of the Select Degree, and considered it of such importance that this Grand Chapter was induced to recognize it in the Constitution revised in 1824, wherein it was placed in order immediately before the Royal Arch, and so remained, until the Constitution was revised in 1856, to conform to an amendment, then recently made, to the Constitution of the General Grand Chapter in which the degrees of Mark Master, Past Master, Most Excellent Master, and Royal Arch only were recognized. No prohibition, however, as to any Grand Chapter—in whose jurisdiction no Grand Council existed—exercising control over the degrees was promulgated, and consequently no occasion occurred requiring this Grand Chapter to assert its rights in the premises, further than by continuing its recognition of the right of its subordinates to confer said degrees according to usage in this jurisdiction.

“Maryland occupies, indirectly, a prominent part in the interest attracted to these degrees and their early dissemination throughout a large portion of the country, from the fact that Companion Jeremy L. Cross, who had been appointed Grand Lecturer of the General Grand Chapter, visited Baltimore in 1816, and received from Companions Eckel and Niles the Degree of Select Master, with authority to confer it, without charge, upon Royal Arch Masons. Companion Cross violated the confidence reposed in him, by charging a fee for conferring the degree, as well as establishing Councils “independent of Royal Arch Masonry,” which had never been contemplated by Companions Eckel and Niles, and which action was pronounced by this Grand Chapter, in 1827, as ‘a great mistake or actual abuse of any authority delegated or meant to be delegated in relation to the Select Degree.’ On the other hand, Companion Cross set up the claim that he ‘received from Companions Eckel and Niles a warrant to confer the Royal and Select Master’s Degrees, they being explanatory of the Royal Arch, and to establish Councils in all places where there was a Royal Arch Chapter, if they so desired,’ under cover of which he established, between the autumn of 1816 and the summer of 1819, thirty-three Councils throughout the States of Virginia, Ohio, Kentucky, Mississippi, Delaware, New Jersey, Connecticut, New Hampshire, Massachusetts and Vermont. The greater number of these Councils subsequently joined in the formation of Grand Councils

in the several States named, whilst Grand Councils in the other States have been formed mostly by subordinates chartered either by the Supreme Council of the Ancient Accepted Rite, to which it is conceded these degrees originally belonged as 'side degrees,' or by Grand Councils established by authority derived from that source.

"Maryland has ever maintained that the Council degrees should be under the control of the Chapters, and be conferred before the Royal Arch, but we find at the present time but three other Grand Chapters who think alike with us; the remainder all have regularly organized Grand Councils, which exercise jurisdiction over them, and under whose fostering care their usefulness and value are undoubtedly greatly enhanced.

"In order then to aid in the perfection of the 'American System,' and to place ourselves in unison with the great majority of Grand Jurisdictions of our country, I urge upon the Grand Chapter to forbid her subordinates conferring these degrees, and let us as Select and Royal Masters proceed to organize subordinate Councils, and at as early a date as possible, a Grand Council. No change will be required in our Chapter work, as the Committee on its revision so arranged it in anticipation as to preclude any such necessity.

"In December, 1871, a Companion hailing from Canada, properly avouched for, was admitted as a visitor to several of the Baltimore Chapters, after which it was discovered that he was a minor. Upon investigation he satisfactorily proved having been exalted by dispensation. Doubts naturally existed, however, whether he had been regularly made, as the acknowledged view of the matter was that this privilege was, in rare instances, only accorded to princes of royal blood. I would suggest the fact that whilst this Grand Chapter may not be willing to dictate to a Grand body not of our own nationality, at what age she may make Masons, she can define, for the guidance of her subordinates, the extent of their privileges in determining whom they will admit as visitors.

"The special attention of the Chapters has been directed to the requirements of the standing resolution as to the proficiency of candidates before exaltation, and the result has been so very satisfactory that I would recommend that it be so amended as to require an examination in open Lodge. The good effects of such a system I am satisfied would soon be felt among the members of the Chapters, and much of the diffidence now felt to examining and being examined, would ere long be removed."

We insert the following and commend the import to many Grand Chapters, who are in doubt as to the way out of their difficulties:

"The practice of visitation of the Subordinate Chapters, by the Most Excellent Grand High Priest and his officers, is not only commendable, but highly beneficial. It not merely encourages and gratifies the members of the Chapters visited, but acts as a powerful stimulus to acquire a better knowledge of, and greater proficiency in,

the ritual and law of Chapter Masonry, and is therefore a practice which should be fully and zealously carried out by the Grand Officers, and promoted by the Chapters."

We find a resolution adopted abolishing the Council degrees, which we think wise, and congratulate our Companions in getting rid of an annoyance which seriously militated against them by visitors to their jurisdiction.

The following goes to show another source of trouble among most of the jurisdictions in the United States :

"As to 'Past Masters who are such only by receiving the degrees as preparatory to the Royal Arch,' they are *nominal* Past Masters only, not *actual*, and as such have no rights among *actual* Past Masters, and no business there."

Why not adopt the Pennsylvania system. Our *Grand Lodge* keeps entire control of that degree, and so they ought.

The Report on Correspondence was prepared by H. J. Emmons, Jr., and is a fair *resume* of the doings of the various Grand Chapters. Pennsylvania for 1871 is very fraternally noticed. We clip the following :

"We believe the time will come when the Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania will be an honored constituent of the General Grand Chapter.

"When she is convinced that it may be essential to the interest of the Royal Craft at large that her eminent Masons should be placed in a position where they can dispense true Masonic light as understood in that jurisdiction—and that there is a possibility that this need of Masonic light is felt within her own borders, and, above all, that her influence may prove potent in cementing Masonic union throughout the United States—we believe that the sentiment of pride, which is so strong an incentive to independent organization, will yield to that nobler duty of securing and perpetuating harmonious relations among her sister Grand Chapters; and in no possible way can this result be more successfully accomplished than in the General Grand Chapter. Meanwhile, we bide our time in patience."

We are very much obliged, Companion Emmons, for your good opinion of us, although we cannot understand the following :

"It has been our pleasure to have fraternal intercourse with a large number of the Companions belonging to the constituents of the Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania, and we have uniformly found them to be high-toned gentlemen, and consistent members of the Royal Craft, but fear their willingness to remain isolated from their

brethren, and their reluctance to claim the fostering care of the General Grand Chapter, have had a disastrous and demoralizing effect, as we see from their proceedings, the appointment of THIRTEEN Grand Chaplains was a necessity."

We again bow for the compliment, but are sure we have had the thirteen Grand Chaplains ever since you have known us, which fact will prove they have not done us any harm at all events, &c.

Companion GEORGE S. McCAHAN, (re-elected,) *Grand High Priest.*

Companion WILLIAM A. WENTZ, *Grand Secretary.*

MISSOURI.

The Twenty-sixth Annual Communication was held in the city of St. Louis, October 10, 1872, Most Excellent Grand High Priest JOSEPH M. Fox presiding. From his interesting address we quote the following, which is very creditable to their good sense and the general intelligence of the officers in that jurisdiction, for we hold that the laws now in existence in the various jurisdictions are quite sufficient for the proper government of the Chapters; but we sometimes get officers whose disposition resembles that good-natured animal with long ears who has become proverbial, and we verily believe they spend two-thirds of their time puzzling their brains for questions to ask their Grand High Priest.

"When men are well informed and act intelligently on their information, the necessity for specific direction becomes reduced to a minimum. The absence, therefore, of official decisions in the records of the past two years, is a fact upon which I must congratulate the real friends of Capitular Masonry. It is the best evidence that can be adduced to show the zeal, industry and knowledge of the brethren, and to display the admirably harmonious working of the multifarious interests that attach themselves to our Order. And this is the more gratifying, as indicative of a high degree of information in the knowledge of Lodge work, Lodge laws and Symbolic Masonry generally. For so beautifully accurate and progressive are the blendings of the Lodge with the Chapter, that when the Master Mason thoroughly understands and appreciates his Lodge, he cannot fail to become an efficient and intelligent worker in his Chapter. The industry and erudition of my predecessors in office have also contributed no slight share to the result of which I speak. Nearly every emergency likely to arise in the operations of the Order has been already so clearly adjudicated by earnest, learned and discreet men, occupying positions either as makers or exponents of the law, that the cases in which the decision and authority of your executive

officer can properly be invoked, must decrease, as they have been decreasing, with the efflux of time and the increase of light."

The Committee on Grand High Priest's address reported as follows; and we are glad to find them so outspoken and frank in dealing with the address.

"Having had also under consideration the report of the R. E., the Deputy Grand High Priest, as acting Grand High Priest, your Committee would state that in the case of the granting a dispensation to Springfield Chapter, No. 15, to confer the Chapter degrees on one Brother Wolf, a Master Mason, in less than the prescribed time, they cannot endorse his action therein, for the reason that the Grand High Priest has no authority to grant dispensations for such a purpose, excepting upon the occasion of the institution of a new Chapter, which is specified in Article I, Section 16, of the Constitution of the Grand Chapter.

"We dissent from the decision that charges once preferred before a Chapter against a Royal Arch Mason cannot be withdrawn without going through a formal trial. In the opinion of your Committee charges may be withdrawn with the consent of the Grand Chapter.

"We endorse the decision that a Chapter may receive the petition of a Royal Arch Mason for membership, although he is not at the time affiliated with a Blue Lodge."

The Report on Correspondence is again by Companion Geo. Frank Gouly, and is also one of the best on our table.

Companion Gouly in reviewing Connecticut discusses the General Grand Chapter's action on the O. W., and speaks of their action as follows:

"Companion Lockwood can rest assured that the aim of Companion Pike was not to improve the Royal Arch work by getting at the right O. W.; but we are perfectly satisfied that that text was used as a mere blind, behind which to assassinate the York rite. This is no new subject to us, nor a pleasant one to refer to, but having gone to the bottom of Companion Pike's hostility to our rite, we feel conscientious in making the above charge."

We are sincerely sorry to see the real uselessness of the General Grand Chapter, and especially when those who are full members and of unquestioned ability seem to disagree so frequently and bitterly. We honestly question very much whether the good that is claimed for that organization is not entirely counterbalanced by the wide difference of opinion and strong feeling that is exhibited by the different jurisdictions who are members, on the legislation and laws passed from time to time by that body.

The following, from his review of the District of Columbia, we insert, and commend it to the consideration of many in our jurisdiction:

"We hold that if it is proper to endow a Grand High Priest with the right to set aside *time* in a ballot, he should have the same right to set aside the *ballot* also. We fully agree with the following:

"I know of but two ways of acquiring full membership in a Masonic body, viz.: the first, by petition, ballot and initiation; the second, by petition and affiliation. If any other mode of acquiring full membership in a Masonic body (according to the usages of Masonry) is known, I confess my ignorance of its existence, and would gladly be enlightened upon that point."

"This is opposed to the 'sight' business. We are in search of the same information. We often hear Grand High Priests and Grand Masters talking flippantly about 'ancient prerogatives,' 'time immemorial,' and all that sort of thing, but we want to see the 'papers' for it. We have heard a great deal of such clap-trap, and have about got tired of it, and now we want solid facts. Our brethren continually call on us for the records or law endorsing the high cockalorum prerogative of making Masons at sight, and as we can find nothing of it, we want the advocates of that theory to find it for us."

Speaking of Louisiana, he says:

"If Freemasonry should lay down an *absolute* rule as to anything a member may sell, it would then of necessity have to go through the whole schedule of trades, and out of that would grow great injustice, and result in breaking up the institution. Our own opinion of a candidate depends entirely upon the MAN and not upon his trade, his religion or politics."

Pennsylvania for 1871 is largely *quoted from*, but slightly noticed, showing we have certainly been on our good behavior. We quote his conclusion and endorse it fully:

"We have in many instances received but one copy of proceedings from a State, and not being certain that we could procure duplicates, we have been compelled in such instances to be very brief in our extracts, as we could not clip from the copies before us. In most instances we wrote for duplicates, which when received were too late to be used for the present report. We would suggest that three copies be sent at one and the same time. We would also suggest that in printing proceedings, Grand Secretaries would insert 'sub-headings' to all subject-matter in the proceedings, and also to put all quotations in 'solid' composition and original matter 'leaded'—this will greatly aid the reviewers."

Companion JAMES E. CARTER, *Grand High Priest.*

Companion GEORGE FRANK GOULY, (re-elected,) *Grand Secretary.*

NEW HAMPSHIRE.

The Annual Convocation was held in the City of Concord, May 14, 1872, Most Excellent Grand High Priest Companion JOHN A. HARRIS presiding. His address was an intelligent but brief document.

There are also reports from the Deputy Grand High Priest and Grand Scribe.

The Report on Correspondence was presented by Companion John J. Bell. From his review of Louisiana we quote the following, but entirely differ with his conclusions:

“Of course, the bugbear of non-affiliation, which in all branches of Masonry has been so frightful to our brethren of some jurisdictions, is the reason for the last opinion. We could enlarge on this topic, but whether profitably or not, may be doubtful. From our experience, we are clear that the ancient law of the Craft, which makes it a purely voluntary society to which no one is required to contribute any further or longer than he wishes, is the safest and best. Every Mason should be a member of some Lodge in the same sense that every citizen should vote; and, as we would not deprive the citizen of his right of suffrage because he neglects to use it, so we would not attempt to deprive a Mason of his rights as a member of the Craft because he did not choose to avail himself of all the advantages it offers him. Furthermore, could the rule so urgently pressed be made universal, the nature of Masonry would meet with quite a change, which would, in assimilating it to the modern and ephemeral societies of our time, deprive it of much of its natural strength.”

We find in his review of Michigan the following squib, which shows his appreciation of that body:

“‘The decisions of the Most Excellent Grand High Priest, submitted to the Committee, are concurred in.’

“Which would seem to leave the question as clear as mud; however, the General Grand Chapter have settled that, like the celebrated jury who found the accused ‘not guilty, but we recommend him not to do so again.’”

In his review of Pennsylvania, we find the following:

“He quotes from a letter of Wm. James Hughan, of England, giving the status of the Mark and Royal Arch degrees in the British Islands, showing the slight resemblance between them and the degrees of the same name we work, with differences so great as to raise the question whether the degrees as worked in the British Islands and Pennsylvania ought not to be regarded by us as **of a**

different rite, standing in the same relation to ours as the Scottish and other rites.

“The Report on Correspondence reviews the Proceedings of twenty-nine Grand Chapters and the General Grand Chapter. Companion Drummond, of Maine, had asked, ‘If, by dispensation to pass the chair, Chapter Past Masters (in Pennsylvania) are regarded as actual Past Masters?’ To this a former Committee of Pennsylvania had replied: ‘We have no Chapter Past Masters.’ A manifest evasion. Companion Drummond made no complaint that his question was thus declined an answer, but Companion White, of New York, could not see that the question was answered, and now the Committee somewhat flippantly tell both to look at Book of Constitutions and printed decisions of the Grand Chapter, and find out.”

With regard to the above evasion we would say that we do not so regard the answer of our predecessor, “*we have no Chapter Past Masters.*” The Constitution of our Grand Chapter (Sec. 39 of Article XV, page 40) says:—“An applicant for the Mark Master’s degree, or for membership in a Mark Lodge, shall have some visible means of an honest livelihood and be a Past Master, either by election or *dispensation*, in good standing with the fraternity and the Master Mason’s Lodge from which he hails, and competent to perform all the work in the degree he applies for.”

We would further explain that *our* Past Master’s degree is the identical degree conferred upon the Worshipful Master of a Blue Lodge upon his installation into office; it is entirely controlled by the Grand Lodge and under their jurisdiction, and conferred only by their consent, and as we do not find it necessary to confer that degree twice either in name or reality, we really have no Chapter of Past Masters.

Again, he says:

“‘A spirit of mild criticism against what is considered the too ‘exclusive’ position and conduct of the Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania is manifested more or less in almost every one of these documents, the *animus* of which evidently arises mainly out of the fact of our refusal to give allegiance to the General Grand Chapter of the United States.’

“This hardly fairly states the case. Other Grand Chapters stand in the same relation of government, &c., to the General Grand Chapter, against whom no such criticisms are made, while our Companions in Pennsylvania, in constitution, usages, degrees, and ritual, see fit to differ from all the rest of the world. They may be right: all others may have overthrown the ancient usages and pulled up the

old landmarks, and so wrought confusion, but it will be hard to make them think so. To us, it seems that from the invention of the Royal Arch by Dermott, shortly before 1740, there has been a gradual unfolding, in several different directions, of the mischievous step then taken, and that Pennsylvania has the same right to call Webb the great innovator that the pot has to call the kettle black. Ancient pure Free Masonry consists of three degrees only—Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft, and Master Mason. The *invention* of the word is the completion of the legend belonging to the Master Mason, though now separated, and with differing legends forming the Royal Arch, and corresponding degrees in other rites. We are all alike wrong, if wrong it be, one as much as the other, in our Royal Arch work."

We have seen the above quotation from the report of Companion Griscom on several occasions, and thought for a time that he was mistaken in his views, but we frankly confess, we are forced to the same conclusion, after looking over many of the proceedings which have come under our notice. However, we would say to Companion Bell that probably we have not been long enough *in the work* to fully understand his argument, and we would ask him to look over it carefully and see if he will not confess that instead of Pennsylvania being unusually obtuse to good offices and good argument, he is not the juror who could not agree because the other eleven were so intolerably stubborn that he could do nothing with them. Leaving out the question of the General Grand Chapter, which by-the-way we certainly have no feelings against, for there are many, *very many*, who compose the active element of that body, when we meet them, make our hearts feel glad as with affection we grasp their hand and with confidence listen to what they say, whom we would depend upon either in prosperity or adversity, and whom we honor deeply and sincerely for their virtues and intelligence, against whom it would be hard to convince us that we should doubt even their judgment. How then could we have feelings against any thing they had part or lot in, and in this case we are sure we speak the sentiments of our entire Grand Chapter. Therefore pray dismiss any further idea of our being antagonistic to the General Grand Chapter. We simply do not see the utility of that Grand Body, and therefore do not wish to join it. With regard to one other remark in the above, viz., "they may be right, &c.," do not let us deal in generalities; please name any part of our ritual or actions that is not proper and we will try and meet you or confess

we cannot, but we are too sincere an admirer of New Hampshire to let her swallow us in that manner, for if we *are* such sinners we might hurt your digestion."

From their particular regulations we quote as follows, which we commend to all jurisdictions :

"ARTICLE VI.—It shall be the duty of the Grand High Priest, or presiding officer, at the annual meeting of the Grand Chapter, to give, or cause to be given, the Mark and Royal Arch lectures, that the officers of the several Chapters may be fully acquainted therewith, and dispense the knowledge of them in a uniform and regular manner in their several Chapters ; unless the Grand Chapter otherwise order."

Also the following, which we think is good :

"ARTICLE VIII.—All motions made in the Grand Chapter, the decision of which may require to be recorded, shall be handed, in writing, to the presiding officer, before any question is taken upon them."

Companion EDWARD GUSTIN, *Grand High Priest.*

Companion ABEL HUTCHINS, (re-elected,) *Grand Secretary.*

NEW JERSEY.

The Seventeenth Annual Convocation was held at Trenton, September 10, 1873, Grand High Priest Companion T. H. R. REDWAY presiding. His address was a very general review of his labors during the past year. One of his decisions, which we quote, is good, and we would commend it to the fraternity generally, believing that to permit an applicant to evade the usual ordeal of a Committee of Inquiry and a month's probation, is inherently wrong, and like any wrong, liable to bring dire punishment upon those who commit it.

"I have been solicited but once during the year to grant a dispensation to elect and confer the degrees of the Chapter upon a candidate before the constitutional time had elapsed, and no justifiable cause appearing, and believing that such a course engenders evil, I refused to grant the dispensation."

The following, from the report of the Deputy Grand High Priest, we believe evidences either a greater amount of ignorance or contumaciousness than we have before heard of, and feel no doubt that our Companions over the river will vigorously apply the lash to such a body. Think of one hundred and five blockheads, or *worse*, out of one hundred and twenty ! The italics are ours.

"May 27th, I visited Pentalpha, No. 11, at Hoboken. I regret that I cannot report that Chapter in as prosperous a condition as I should like to do; but I trust that, through the earnest and united efforts of Most Excellent High Priest Scott and his subordinate officers, they may be able to raise it to its former position. I am satisfied they are using their best endeavors to build up the Chapter, and I hope they may be successful. The evening I visited them, the members had been *summoned* to attend for the purpose of acting upon some proposed alteration to the By-Laws, *and, in answer to the summons, about fifteen were present out of a membership of one hundred and twenty. Evidently the members of that body do not understand the nature of a summons.* The regular business requiring so much time, I was obliged to leave without witnessing any work."

We cannot but praise the system prevailing in New Jersey of the State being districted, and assigned to the various Grand Officers. Their reports made to the Grand Chapter show they have done their work well, and that under their administration they will either have all their Chapters under a high state of discipline or expose their weakness, which we think right. If the spur they goad them on with fails to get through the hide of the present officers of subordinate Chapters, very soon they will get some with thinner skin, who will be willing to *work* in return for the honor conferred upon them, in electing them to govern their Chapters, and if they work as they ought, no Chapter that is now constituted need fail in having a good attendance and plenty of work.

The Committee on Constitutions, to whom was referred that part of the Grand High Priest's address relating to Cataract City Chapter, No. 10, reported as follows:

"In the matter relating to Cataract City Chapter, No. 10, and Lancaster Chapter, No. 43, of Pennsylvania, that the matter of jurisdiction having been fully maintained by the Grand High Priest, and the illegality of the act of making Brother J. H. Wilmot a Royal Arch Mason by Lancaster Chapter, No. 43, of Pennsylvania, having been established by the Grand High Priest of that State: that so far as the act is concerned the authorities have disposed of its status, and that the illegally-made Companion stands in this jurisdiction without recognition as a Royal Arch Mason."

As a further explanation is here in place, we would say that in our published proceedings of 1872, page 136, it will be found that our Grand High Priest's decision puts J. H. W—— in the position of a rejected candidate, and masonically the property of Cataract City

Chapter, No. 10, of New Jersey; and while it may be said he has received the degree, yet the degree under such circumstances in our judgment, is worse than nothing.

The Committee of Grievances and Appeals made the following report, with which we entirely disagree, as we do not think it right or politic to place such a responsibility on the shoulders of one man, nor is it politic to trust one man's judgment in a matter which may, (by precedent) affect the whole jurisdiction:

"The Committee on Appeals and Grievances beg to report that as the matter of Orange Chapter involves an expenditure of time far beyond that at the disposal of your Committee at this present, they respectfully ask that the entire subject be investigated at an early day and disposed of by your Committee with the sanction of the Grand High Priest."

The Report on Correspondence is again by Companion Thomas J. Corson, and reviews the proceedings of thirty Grand Chapters, Pennsylvania being among the number. And here let us say that we thank Companion Corson for his kind words and the encouragement he has honored us with; the value of such is to novices like ourselves priceless. While reading an advance copy of his report, we felt happy as when we donned our first pantaloons in childhood; and after a week's enjoyment all to ourselves of the sweet morsel, we carried it in triumph to the friend who never flatters, and watched with eager eye for a responsive shout in our honor. We confess to being a little dampened when we were told in a very matter-of-fact way, "Well, we think it is because of his warm friendship for you he has written so." Yet we are grateful, for in any case it was kindly intended.

We quote from his review of Massachusetts:

"At one of the Convocations the Grand High Priest, Companion Alfred F. Chapman, gave a most profound and erudite disquisition upon the Tetragrammaton, in which he proves, or attempts to do so, that the action of the General Grand Chapter in changing the Grand Royal Arch Word was entirely wrong.

"This is a subject which we acknowledge that we do not understand, as we are not acquainted with the Hebrew language. In fact we can almost say with good old Cowper:

' Small skill in Latin, and still less in Greek,
Is more than adequate to all I seek.'

"If Companion Chapman is right, then Mackey and Pike are

wrong, although their fame as learned Hebraists is fully equal to that of Companion Chapman, even when the latter is 'boosted' up by a Cambridge professor. Let Chapman and Lockwood settle this matter with Mackey and Pike, but in the meantime, whom are we to obey, Companion Chapman or the General Grand Chapter? We are under obligations to obey the edicts of the General Grand Chapter, and 'as for me and my house,' we will fulfil our obligations. We were under the impression that the Grand Chapter of Massachusetts was subordinate to the General Grand Chapter, but the following resolution, adopted by this Grand Chapter, shows that we were sadly mistaken, and convinces us that this Grand Body is so wise and perfect that she needs no light from any source but herself, and that she will disregard all obligations, unless in her sovereign wisdom, the power to which she acknowledges herself subordinate is correct in its conclusions and decisions :

" ' We therefore recommend that this Grand Chapter continue to instruct in the Ritual in the future, as it has in the past, believing that the interests of Royal Arch Masonry will be best promoted by protecting the landmarks against innovation, and transmitting, unimpaired, the traditions received from the founders of the Order in the Old World, as well as in the New.

" ' It is also recommended, that it will not violate any allegiance to this Grand Chapter, if its subordinates shall instruct their members in the way and manner of the change attempted to be made by the General Grand Chapter ; to the end that they may be skilled workers wherever they may visit.'

" How generously this Grand Chapter acts in graciously *permitting* her subordinates to do that which a power superior to herself has *ordered* them to do.

Of Pennsylvania he thus speaks :

" Hardly more than a decade of years ago, about all that we could learn of this Grand Chapter from its printed proceedings was the fact that such a body existed, that it held convocations at stated intervals, and elected its officers annually. But now she presents us with a magnificent volume, hardly equalled and not excelled by any other Grand Chapter, of two hundred and fifty pages, over one hundred pages of which are devoted to a Report on Correspondence ; in which splendid volume are contained the proceedings of four Quarterly and one Annual Convocations, the last of which was held in December, 1872. It fills our heart with joy to see our native State assume the exalted position of honor and power among her peers to which her age and merit so justly entitle her.

From his conclusion we take the following, and it will illustrate the untiring, indefatigable man and Mason who would let no affliction interfere with his duty. We are glad Companion Corson

has recovered in a great measure his health, and hope it will be long indeed before he will have occasion to make further apology.

“ Thus, Companions, I present to you my annual report, which can hardly be called mine, inasmuch as not one single word of it has been written by myself. The entire report has been written by a faithful little daughter, who wrote as I dictated. Those who have prepared such reports know how much labor is required in the performance of the task, even under the most favorable circumstances; and they can understand, to some extent, how very tedious and tiresome the work must be when performed by the slow process of dictation and copying. But for the assistance of my daughter, who sacrificed her pleasures to aid me in my work, and faithfully wrote during the most sweltering days of summer, when her inclinations and natural choice would have made her join her youthful associates, this report could not have been prepared. Nor would I have undertaken the work, had I not believed it my bounden duty to do so. I know how very imperfect and incomplete the report is. I know that I must have failed to notice very many matters of interest in the various proceedings received by me, for reading is such painful work for me, that my examination of them has been very cursory and superficial. But I can truthfully say to the Companions of this Grand Chapter that I have done the best that I could under the adverse circumstances which have surrounded me, to present them a faithful and truthful account of the condition, as well as the doings and sayings, of the Royal Arch fraternity in other jurisdictions. And to the Companions of other States, I wish to say that I have endeavored to do them full justice, and if I have neglected any, or overlooked matters of importance, such neglect and oversight have not been intentional.

“ The condition of Royal Arch Masonry throughout the world, and most particularly in our own beloved country, is such as to make every true craftsman rejoice with exceeding great gladness. Peace and harmony reign supreme among the workmen, and while we may honestly differ upon some trivial points, in all of the essentials of our institution we are a unit. Let us pray, Companions, that this may ever be so, and that the Giver of all good may continue to bless us as He has thus far done, and that through His grace and infinite mercy each one of us may be made worthy to inscribe upon our hearts as well as on our banners, ‘ Holiness to the Lord.’ ”

Companion WILLIAM H. McILHANNEY, *Grand High Priest.*

Companion THOMAS J. CORSON, *Grand Secretary.*

NORTH CAROLINA.

The Twenty-fifth Annual Convocation was held in Wilmington, June 2, 3, 4, 5, 1873, Most Excellent Grand High Priest Com-

panion JOHN NICHOLS presiding. From his address we quote the following, which is full of interest to the Craft generally :

“ It was my fervent wish that I might be able, at the close of my present and last term of official service, to report an increase of prosperity to Capitular Masonry in this jurisdiction, but I sincerely regret that the present state of the craft will not justify me in so doing. I recur to history.

“ Royal Arch Masonry has had an existence in this State since the year 1788, but not in an organized capacity until the year 1822.

“ The interest incident to the Annual Convocation is not sufficient, it appears, to justify the Chapters in the western and in the rural districts of the middle portion of the State in sending delegates so great a distance, at such an expense as it would necessarily require. Hence the small attendance at each Convocation. The removal of the seat of the Grand Chapter to a more eligible locality is urged by many Companions in different parts of the State as a remedy for this.

“ Here, Companions, permit me to ask, is not this subject worthy of our calm and unselfish consideration? My personal feeling in the matter would lead me to give no active aid in the effort for removal. The warm-hearted greetings which we ever receive from Companions of this city are kindly remembered. Our sincere regard for them, especially those who have so long and faithfully labored in our noble cause, will ever be cherished. These considerations should be held subordinate, however, by every true Companion to the interests of Royal Arch Masonry ; especially, when its prosperity, and perhaps its very existence, is involved. You will be called upon to decide this question at the present Convocation, and I hope that you will give the subject that consideration which its importance naturally suggests, having in view the interests of this body, and Royal Arch Masonry throughout the jurisdiction.

“ The subject of *work*, or particularly the mode of disseminating it, has been suggested as a cause of dissatisfaction ; and I cannot hesitate to affirm that, in my opinion, the expressions of disapprobation are not groundless. It is very essential that we have uniformity in work among the Chapters. I regard the subject as of more importance than some are disposed to give it. In our jurisdiction we have no uniform system of esoteric work.

“ From information received I am persuaded that the resolutions relative to this subject, adopted by the Grand Chapter in 1868, have not accomplished the purpose for which they were intended. The last of the series of resolutions is too compulsory. No lecturers have been appointed in the past two years. No Companion has applied for a commission. The Chapters have not generally been instructed in the work adopted in 1868, all owing, in a great degree, in my judgment, to the unfortunate resolutions referred to.

"Again, prerogatives of the Grand High Priest have been contravened, his *ex officio* custodianship has been transferred to another, and he rendered powerless (if the resolutions be regarded) to appoint lecturers without the sanction of the custodian or deputy custodian of the work. There is nothing in Masonry on which we are so sensitive as its Ritual. The slightest allusion to change or innovation produces discontent and controversy. Therefore, the great necessity of having a work, and that work *understood* and practiced. Companions will have their own notions, each believing his own, or the work he practices, to be the *ancient work*.

"But who is there, Companions, who can tell us what the ancient Royal Arch work is? Let us remember that the degrees, as now conferred in our Chapters, are comparatively modern—and have no claims to antiquity. I do not, therefore, make these recommendations in a spirit of hostility to *the work* adopted in 1868, but to the manner of disseminating that work. Let us either abolish the whole matter, or adopt a practicable plan for its dissemination among the Chapters.

"I respectfully and earnestly recommend the repeal of the resolutions indicated, especially the second and third of the series. Such action will, I believe, contribute to the restoration of harmony among the Chapters, and result in general good.

"During the past year but few questions have been submitted to me for official decision, and none that I deem of sufficient interest or importance to report to this Grand Body. So far as I have been able to learn, harmony has generally prevailed within the jurisdiction, except as to the matters hereinbefore referred to.

"I again call your attention to the apathy and indifference of subordinate Chapters. I cannot see the reason for allowing Chapters—Chapters in name only—to hold charters and meet about once in every year, never exalt a candidate, never pay any dues, and are never represented at the Grand Chapter, and practically are a myth—a blot on the fame of Masonry. I therefore recommend that the Grand Secretary be instructed to furnish a list of the chartered Chapters in North Carolina to the Grand High Priest, with a statement of the amount owing by each, when last represented in the Grand Chapter, and that the Grand High Priest be requested to arrest the charter of every Chapter that has neither made returns, been represented, nor paid its annual dues for two years. I repeat that it is better to have a few live, working and paying Chapters than so many idle non-paying ones. Apply the scalpel, Companions, and I am fully satisfied that it will be attended with happy results. The truth is, Companions, we have too many drones—individual drones and Chapter drones. Who would give a dozen good working Masons, who do their duty, for treble the number who never attend our meetings and are never to be found when needed, and who do not seem to appreciate the fact that they are Masons at all. They do well for a season, but soon the novelty

of the thing ceases, and it is rarely they are seen at our Convocations. A few members do all the work and all the paying, and are held responsible for the character of Masonry, both fraternal and financial. The same relation that an individual Mason bears to his Chapter, a Chapter bears to its Grand Chapter. Deliver us from such drones! To many of my Companions in this jurisdiction, this position may, and doubtless will be objectionable; to others it may seem unwise, but it is because I love Masonry and desire the preservation of its purity and stability that I thus recommend the probe to its sores. I can only suggest a remedy; it is for you to apply it or not, as your judgment dictates."

The Report on Correspondence is a dual performance by Companions Thomas M. Gardner and Horace H. Munson, and is very creditable.

The following we agree with, as it is the law and practice in our jurisdiction, and we think from the very nature of their installation it must be so:

"We can consider of no circumstances under which it would be proper for an elective officer to resign. Should a vacancy exist for any cause whatever, the King should preside; in case of his inability, the Scribe. It would certainly be rough on the balance of the Grand Council, if, as proposed above, the High Priest should resign, for the Chapter to elect some Companion from the floor as High Priest. We believe our position to be correct, viz., that no elective officer can resign."

Pennsylvania for 1872 is fraternally noticed. We clip the following:

"*Resolved*, That the District Deputy Grand High Priest of District No. 8 be directed not to permit any *work* to be done in Chapter No. 161, until such time as they shall have surrendered the charter obtained by them."

"By this action, a novel position is taken. We were of opinion that a simple act of incorporation obtained by a Lodge or Chapter, only conferred upon it the power to sue and be sued, &c.; but how an '*act of incorporation from the civil authority can divide the ALLEGIANCE to the Grand Chapter, we can't see.*' This is so different from the manner in which we do business in this jurisdiction, that we notice it, not for the purpose of cavilling, but that some light may be thrown on the subject, or reason assigned for this action."

In reply we say:—The Constitution of our Grand Chapter provides, first, (Section 3, Article V, pages 8 and 9:)—"It shall have power to grant warrants for holding Royal Arch Chapters, and Most Excellent and Mark Masters' Lodges, and to suspend, revoke,

restore, and exercise jurisdiction over the same, as may be deemed expedient."

Also, (Section 9, Article XV, page 32, and part of Section 10, Article XV, page 32:—"The warrant of a Chapter or Lodge may be suspended, vacated or resumed by the Grand Chapter, by its refusal or neglect to make returns as required, by its refusal or neglect to pay the necessary fees and dues; by the death, dismission, or removal of the members; by not assembling during twelve months; by unmasonic conduct—but the warrant of a Chapter or Lodge shall in no case be suspended, vacated or resumed until such Chapter or Lodge shall have been duly warned of its offence, and notified to appear and answer the same. When the warrant of a Chapter or Lodge is suspended, vacated or resumed by the Grand Chapter, the last High Priest, Secretary or Treasurer shall, within three months thereafter, surrender to the Grand Secretary the warrants, books, papers, jewels, furniture, funds, and all other property of such Chapter or Lodge, and the last presiding officer shall transmit to the Grand Secretary an inventory thereof, and be held responsible for the prompt execution of this section."

Our Companions will see from the above quotations, that our Grand Chapter keeps absolute control of Chapters while living, and is "heir at law," to their effects when dead, besides the power to kill them when any offence is committed, construing the law as laid down. Now it will not be necessary to argue corporation law in this place, suffice it to say that any member of a body incorporated has the power in our State to cite the whole body into court to explain, render an account of, or dispute with, upon any pretext that would likely occur with a wrong-headed man. Suppose the Grand Chapter would undertake to revoke the warrant of a Chapter for any of the offences named, and direct the effects, as is provided, should be forwarded to the Grand Secretary, how easy to imagine some one or more of the members of that Chapter appealing to the court upon a bill of equity for their share of the property of the said Chapter, and so give trouble and bring disgrace upon the whole institution. The word intended to be used in the above sentence was *authority*, not *allegiance*, but the *printer* fixed up a flowery sentence which must have passed unnoticed in the proof. We trust the answer is intelligible to our Companions, as we want to answer them to their satisfaction, and yet we are afraid to spin out a long story, as our space is limited.

The following we also clip from the review of Pennsylvania:

"The Committee on Appeals decide, page 108, that the right of an applicant to 'withdraw his application before report thereon, or after report and before ballot if the report be favorable, is undoubted,' &c. From the adoption of this report, we must infer it met the approval of the Grand Chapter, and thus becomes a decision of the Grand Body.

"We do not consider this sound doctrine, nor do we believe it is in accordance with general usage. An application becomes the property of the Chapter after having been received and filed, or referred to a committee, and a ballot must be had whether the report be favorable or not."

The Committee decided the right of the applicant to withdraw his petition in accordance with our Constitution. As regards the soundness of the doctrine, *we think it sound*. For instance, A B presents (voluntarily) his petition to a Chapter for the degrees, &c., and a committee is appointed to make the necessary inquiries, having one month or more to make a report. Now the applicant wishes to withdraw his petition from that Chapter, it does not suit him to take the degrees. Nothing has been done except the appointment of a committee; there is no report either good or bad; the only act done was to present the petition to the Chapter; they have incurred no obligations towards him, nor he to them; why shall he not have the right of withdrawal? Suppose you refuse? Surely you will not claim that he must go in whether he wants to or not. The doctrine is full of common sense, and that we think a desirable commodity in such cases.

The following is his criticism of our action with regard to A. P. C—, in Chapter No. 178:

"The stroke of justice, in our judgment, should have fallen on this Chapter instead of the Companion, who had nothing to do with the irregular manner in which he was exalted. How does this Companion stand? Does this edict unmake him or take away from his mind the impressions made by the ceremonies through which he has passed? If it did, it seems to us the edict might be considered reasonable, but as the end cannot be accomplished by the means adopted, we think the mere striking of Companion A. P. C—'s name from the roll amounts to nothing, and that the warrant of the Chapter should have been taken, and a better and more lasting impression would have at least been made on the mind of the Companion. What is the status of this Companion who is now out in the cold? Won't somebody tell us?"

In answer to the last query we say he is nothing, (capitular,)

Masonically speaking. He is as if he never was ; and in regard to the impressions on his mind, as we had occasion to notice in the proceedings of New Jersey, the same reasoning will hold good, (see page 424.)

The following we think just and dignified, and we give it the widest circulation, as it may be of interest and use to others ; the preamble and resolution were adopted.

“ WHEREAS, The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of the State of North Carolina did, at the Annual Convocation of that Grand Body, held in 1871, adopt a resolution requiring her subordinate Lodges, after three months' notice, to expel all non-affiliated Masons within their jurisdictions who should fail for twelve months to connect themselves with some Lodge ; *and whereas*, This Grand Chapter, regarding such a course as highly detrimental to the best interests of both institutions—opposed to the spirit of *Freemasonry*, ever cherished and proclaimed by both as a fundamental and unalterable principle of the Order—and destined to sap, or weaken at least, the very foundation upon which rests the superstructure of Royal Arch Masonry, did, at her last Grand Annual Convocation, address to the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge, in the most respectful and fraternal manner, an appeal, praying that Grand Body to rescind the said resolution at her next ensuing Annual Communication ; *and whereas*, The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge, at her Annual Communication in December last, refused, by a vote of the said Grand Body, to receive or permit the said appeal to be read or considered ; now, therefore,

“ *Resolved*, That this Grand Chapter, believing that the impression prevailed to some extent among members of the Grand Lodge who have not read the appeal, as published in the proceedings of this body, that it was dictatorial in its character as to what laws should be passed by the Grand Lodge, does most emphatically disclaim any intention or right to interfere with the legislation of the Grand Lodge further than by respectful petition. That we regard the two institutions as indissolubly united in interests, and as one in principle, and in all the great and glorious objects of our respective organization ; that we cherish the *Lodge* as the foundation upon which our institution is based, and have, therefore, provided that none can come to us otherwise than through her portals ; that none can remain who have been divested by her of their Masonic rights ; that we are all members of her body, and, as such, entitled to be heard in her councils. That believing that the conclusions of *any body of Masons*, after a full discussion and a calm consideration of any matter affecting, as we believe, the vital interests of the Lodge as well as the Chapter, would receive more respectful attention and consideration from the Grand Lodge, and would have more weight in directing the serious attention of that body to the subject than

anything that could be effected by the individual members of the two bodies, we were induced to prepare and present that appeal to the Grand Lodge.

"Resolved, further, That it is not the purpose of this Grand Chapter to inaugurate a controversy with the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge. That we are of one brotherhood, among whom no contention should be tolerated, and that our present purpose is, simply and solely, to explain to our brethren the motives that prompted us to make that appeal to the Grand Lodge, and to express our profound surprise and regret that a body of our own brethren should treat our petition with less consideration than in former days would have been accorded by this same Grand Body to a petition from the humblest individual, or from any respectable body of men, be they Masons or profanes."

Companion H. H. MUNSON, *Grand High Priest.*

Companion T. M. GARDNER, *Grand Secretary.*

NOVA SCOTIA.

The Third Annual Convocation was held at Halifax, June 4, 1872, Most Excellent Grand High Priest Companion S. R. SIRCÔM presiding. We extract the following relative to the death of Companion J. Conway Brown:

"The hand of death has taken a very prominent Companion from amongst us, since we last met together, our late trusty and well-beloved Companion, Joseph Conway Brown, Grand King. He has gone to 'that undiscovered country, from whose bourne no traveler returns.' Last year it became my pleasing duty to install him into the second highest office within your power to bestow; he, however, only lived to enjoy the distinction forty-nine days, and up to almost the last moment of his life he was actively engaged in the interests of Masonry.

"To his endeavors the organization of the Grand Chapter and its present prosperity is largely indebted. From my intimate acquaintance with him since his arrival amongst us, I became well conversant with his many good and excellent qualities. As an accomplished Mason he had no superiors, and his zeal for the institution was unbounded. He leaves behind him a Masonic record that will exist when no trace of his mortal form shall be visible, and the result of his exertions towards the advancement of Royal Arch Masonry in particular, must have a marked and lasting endurance."

We fear the following, if adopted, will be a departure from the usage and custom of Royal Arch Masonry:

"To amend Section 4, same Chapter, so as to read as follows:—
'The following officers shall be nominated in writing, and elected by

written ballot, and shall require a majority of all the votes present: —The Most Excellent Grand High Priest, the Right Excellent Grand King, the Right Excellent Grand Scribe, the Right Excellent Grand Treasurer, the Right Excellent Grand Secretary.

“After all the nominations have been made, the Grand Secretary shall read the names of the candidates nominated, and the ballot shall be restricted to those names. Should the first ballot not show a clear majority, the subsequent one shall be taken only for those having the two highest number of votes. Should only one nomination take place, the ballot is unnecessary.”

The following we commend, and think it would be well for Grand Chapters to follow suit.

“To amend Chapter ‘Government of Subordinate Chapters,’ by adding the following sections after ‘Section 3.’

“SEC. 4. The degrees of Mark Master, Past Master, Most Excellent Master, and Royal Arch Mason can not be conferred in any Chapter without full appropriate ceremonies in each degree; nothing can be abbreviated in any case, nor must anything be added to, for mere effect or otherwise.

“SEC. 5. It is the special duty of every High Priest to see that all the ceremonies in his Chapter are performed with due order and solemnity, avoiding all trifling and levity, and should this be indulged in by any Companion, to call the offender strictly to an account.”

The Report on Correspondence was presented by Companion James Gossip, and embraces the proceedings of thirty-four Grand Chapters, Pennsylvania for 1871 included, from which we take the following. We hope the *amende* is before you before this, Companion Gossip, as we noticed you fully last year.

“A Report on Foreign Correspondence is presented by Companion Griscom. It is brief. We do not find ourselves noticed in any way in the proceedings of the Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania, although all the reports since the formation of our Grand Chapter have been forwarded to them. Please make the *amende honorable* in future proceedings.”

Companion S. R. SIRCOM, (re-elected,) *Grand High Priest.*

Companion JAMES GOSSIP, *Grand Secretary.*

OHIO.

The Fifty-sixth Annual Convocation was held in the city of Columbus, October 1, 1872, Most Excellent Grand High Priest Companion CHARLES C. KIEFER, presiding. His address is devoted to local matters of no particular interest outside that jurisdiction.

On motion, Companion J. Kelly O'Neall was by his own

request excused from service on the Committee on Foreign Communications for the coming year, and was elected Grand High Priest, which honor, in our judgment, was eminently deserved as a reward for his services to the Grand Chapter. We have no doubt his administration will be vigorous and intelligent, and reflect credit alike upon himself and upon his jurisdiction. The report on correspondence is by him, and in it he reviews the proceedings of thirty-five Grand Chapters, treating the various subjects he notices in what may be called a conversational manner, with decided ability and fairness. In his report of Iowa he says:

"In his notice of Ohio, he wrests one sentence of our reply to Companion Guilbert from its connection, and then takes us to task for saying that an unaffiliated brother cannot be considered in good standing as a Master Mason. The sentence quoted formed part of a paragraph relative to the qualifications of unaffiliated brothers, as petitioners for the degrees of Capitular Masonry, under the laws of the Grand Chapter of Ohio, which require membership in a Lodge, and not as to their standing simply as Master Masons. Had we supposed the sentence would be read without its connections, and quoted as containing our opinion as to the Masonic standing of the non-affiliated, it would have been fuller. But we of the quill are all engaged on the same side of this case. We are all seeking for truth, and the effort should be clearly to communicate correct opinions, and not to provide against possible misconstructions, and with that purpose, we wrote the paragraph containing the sentence quoted, and doubt not that our views were comprehended."

We quote the above more for the benefit of the reporters' "guild," than for any other purpose, as we think the point well taken, and the explanation apt and correct.

Pennsylvania for 1871 receives fraternal notice. We clip the following, and thank Companion O'Neall for his tribute to our jurisdiction. We would also say, in explanation, that Companion O'Neall will find Pennsylvania as much in sympathy with the Royal Arch fraternity of this world, as any body, Grand or otherwise, upon the face of the globe. And in proof, we appeal to the large number of visitors from other jurisdictions who attend our meetings night after night. We recognize the grandeur and solemnity of our teachings and responsibilities, and try not to forget them when the stranger knocks at our door.

Our work, ritual and practice we opine are very much like our neighbor's, and where any little difference may exist, we are confident it is not more so than will be found in the jurisdictions who

form the General Grand Chapter. We try and realize that a Mason finds in every land a brother, in every clime a home. There is another aspect of the case which has come under our observation. Upon many occasions Companions from jurisdictions, who adopt the very senseless and unmasonic practice of sneering at Pennsylvania work, because they do not know anything about it, find those among their members who are weak enough to think that God made the sun to shine only over their homes, and when visiting Pennsylvania, send in their cards and go to the examining-room with a swagger that illy conceals their contempt for Pennsylvania and Pennsylvania work. And we have, upon more than one occasion, tried for an hour to get them to remember sufficient to enable us to be satisfied that they were all they claimed, and out of very pity toiled with them, as we have said, but finally to refuse them admission, because as they were only going to Pennsylvania, and being taught that we in Pennsylvania do not know anything, they did not take the trouble to get posted by some one brighter than themselves. Thus in many cases subjecting their members to disappointment and mortification, from the questionable taste of airing their vanity before those who are only too apt in their ignorance to think that it would raise them in the estimation of their Masonic brethren by showing how much more they know than any one else. Let us say, Companion O'Neall, that in the above we desire to write only in kindness in every particular, and we again thank you for what we believe (if not egotistical) to be a true picture of our Companions in this jurisdiction.

"And so Pennsylvania, earnest, enterprising, noble and generous-hearted Masons, as the Companions of that jurisdiction are, remains apart and alone. And while we regret that she is not more closely bound in sympathy with the other Royal Arch bodies of America, we rejoice at her success, and note with satisfaction, as the result of strict adherence to Masonic principles, that 'the annual returns of every Chapter in the jurisdiction was received by the Grand Secretary within the time prescribed by the Constitution.'"

The following we clip and endorse in his review of South Carolina :

"He thinks that an objection to the advancement of a candidate after a ballot, should have no force unless accompanied by charges or the reasons therefor; that it is the duty of all the members having objections to be present and manifest them through the ballot.

"In the latter opinion we concur, but from the former we dissent. Should a Companion possess such information as to the character of a candidate as would prove him unworthy of the degrees or unfit to become one among us, if this knowledge is possessed at the time of and manifested through, the ballot, no questions are or can be asked. Should the objectionable features of the candidate's character be developed, or come to the Companion's knowledge after the ballot, why should not his opinion, then expressed in open Chapter or Lodge, be entitled to the same force and consideration as if manifested through the ballot? We can perceive no difference, nor a reason for any. The theory of our Masonic institution is, to admit no one within its portals who is objectionable to any member, and thereby absolute harmony and fraternity of feeling is sought to be secured. We cannot suppose that any one will act from an improper motive, or be controlled by any mere whim or prejudice, and the mere declaration by a Companion that he is satisfied that a candidate is unworthy, or, for any reason, unfit to receive the degrees, or that such circumstances exist as would prevent an absolute fraternity of feeling between him and every other member, ought to be, and in Ohio is, sufficient to bar his progress until the objection be removed."

Companion J. KELLY O'NEALL, *Grand High Priest.*

Companion JAMES NESBITT, *Grand Secretary.*

1873.

The Fifty-seventh Annual Convocation was held in the city of Toledo, September 2, 1873, Most Excellent Companion Grand High Priest J. KELLY O'NEALL presiding. His address delivered at this Convocation was, as might be expected, from one of his intelligence and experience first rate. We quote the following, and think it should be *impressed* upon every one connected with the Order as one of the truths that it were a crime to forget:

"My attention has been called to a matter not unworthy of your consideration, and which manifests too little regard for the spirit of our regulations. It is the rapid succession with which, in some Chapters, the degrees are conferred. Our laws, it is true, still recognizes cases of emergency; but the emergency must be real, not fancied. The mere desire to gratify some brother's new born zeal for advancement, or to accommodate the convenience of the Chapter, will not make an emergency, nor justify the conferring of degrees more rapidly than the spirit of our laws contemplate. Masonry is an education, both of the mind and the heart, and for the growth and development of which time and labor are as essential as for the acquisition of knowledge in any other department. And this should be impressed upon the mind of the candidate, as an

incentive to study, and to acquire a knowledge of the sublime truths and mysteries revealed only to the earnest and sincere inquirer. And this desire it should be the object of our ceremonial to stimulate and direct.

Again, we quote from the address :

"A great majority of the questions submitted for my determination have been answered by a mere reference to the rules for the government of your subordinates ; and if Companions would devote to their examination only a small portion of the time consumed in stating their propositions to the Grand officers, such questions would remain unasked. But an acquaintance with the enactments of this Grand Chapter seems, by too many of the subordinates, not to be regarded as a necessary qualification for the office of High Priest ; and a knowledge of their provisions to form the exception rather than the rule. This is forcibly indicated by the fact that in several instances the High Priests of Chapters long established have informed me that a copy of the rules and regulations prescribed for their government did not, and for years had not existed within their jurisdictions. I suggest, as having some tendency to remedy this evil, that Chapters be required to bind and preserve one or more copies of the proceedings with which they are supplied."

The Report on Correspondence reviews the proceedings of a large number of Grand Chapters, and is by S. M. Sullivan. It is brief, but pointed. The Ohio printer has a most confounded bad way of printing the reports, which we wish our Companions there would look into. What is the use of giving more trouble than is deserved ?

Companion J. KELLY O'NEALL, (re-elected,) *Grand High Priest.*

Companion JAMES NESBITT, (re-elected,) *Grand Secretary.*

SOUTH CAROLINA.

The Annual Convocation was held in the city of Charleston, February 11, 1873, Most Excellent Grand High Priest Companion JAMES A. HOYT presiding. *And at the request* of the Grand Chapter delivered *his annual* address, which, no doubt, was already prepared for the occasion. We think that was going it a *little* strong, and would wish, that let us, when out of the Grand Chapter, be what we may, in it do not let us have affectation. The address is a good one, and we would wish for space to give our readers extracts, but we are afraid that we have exceeded our limit already, and must refrain. We quote the following upon maimed candidates :

"I would cite a request for information from one of the subordinate Chapters, as to whether a Chapter has a right to confer the degrees upon a worthy brother, whose physical condition placed him under the ban of our constitutional restriction in regard to candidates who are deformed or maimed. Of course, my decision was in conformity with the plain reading of the law governing such cases, and which admits of no doubt as to its meaning. But reflection suggests to my mind, that a modification of the language employed in the Constitution might be made, without infringing upon the general purport and intention of the rule, or doing violence to the best interests of our institution. Assuming the ground that Capitular Masonry, in this respect, is not analogous to the ancient and honorable Order upon which it was founded, I cannot perceive the necessity for a rigid adherence to the strictest rule, whereby a worthy Mason is deprived of the rights and privileges of our sublime Order, even where he is able to comply literally with 'all the requirements of the several degrees,' as was the case brought to my attention, where a brother had lost a portion of his left hand. It is not my purpose to discuss this question at length, nor am I prepared to make any special recommendation for your guidance; but the thought suggests an earnest inquiry into the provisions of the law as now laid down in our Constitution, which might provoke an enlightened investigation of this subject, and failing to secure any relaxation of the present rule, bring to bear the reasons for its enactment and continuance as one of the fundamental requirements of our Order."

The Committee to whom was referred the address of the Grand High Priest reported the following, which seems to have been adopted, and which we think is a step in the right direction:

"Resolved, That it shall be the duty of the Most Excellent Grand High Priest, at or immediately after this Annual Grand Convocation, to appoint four expert Past High Priests, who, with him, shall meet and carefully consider and adopt a system of work to be observed within this jurisdiction, and that the Most Excellent Grand High Priest, and the four Companions appointed by him, shall constitute the custodians of the work.

"Resolved, That when such system of work is adopted, the Most Excellent Grand High Priest shall appoint a day, as early after this Grand Convocation as practicable, for said custodians to meet in Columbia, to exemplify the adopted work, and that the High Priests of the subordinate Chapters be, and are hereby required, to attend said meeting for instruction.

"Resolved, That the work adopted be recognized as the standard work within this jurisdiction, and be exemplified by the custodians at the next Annual Grand Convocation."

The Report on Correspondence was presented by Companion Augustine T. Smythe, and notices the proceedings of thirty Grand Chapters briefly, but kindly. Pennsylvania for 1871 being among the number. We quote his conclusion :

“Once more we have concluded our task of labor and of pleasure, and once more the cry of ‘all’s well’ comes pealing through the air, from far and near. The proceedings show the Royal Craft increasing and harmonious. We can only say may God keep it so!

“We have felt ourselves shackled, and have written under embarrassing circumstances, in view of the action on the finance question last year, and have, in the desire to curtail and make brief, been obliged to leave out much that was of interest, and to pass by unnoticed many items of importance which we would have liked to bring to your attention.

“Such as it is, our report is before you.

“Peculiar circumstances at the last Grand Convocation induced you to replace the Chairman of your Committee in that position, after his resigning it. He must now ask in earnest to be relieved. The calls of business prevent the attention which the duty requires, and with so many worthier Companions, the Chapter must be benefitted by the change. With kind wishes and farewells to each and all whom we have met in our journeyings, we retire from the corps reportorial.

Companion JAMES BIRNIE, *Grand High Priest.*

Companion MEYER B. MOSES, *Grand Secretary.*

GRAND MARK LODGE OF ENGLAND AND WALES.

The Half-yearly Communication was held June 3, 1873.

We make the following extracts without comment, as we have not yet got used to the work of a Grand Mark Lodge, we give the following for information :

“A Committee of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland appointed to examine into the position of the Degree, reported in 1865 :—‘In this country from time immemorial and long before the institution of the Grand Lodge of Scotland, (in 1736,) what is now known as the Mark Master’s Degree, was wrought by the Operative Lodges of St. John’s Masonry.’

“In A. D. 1598, William Schaw, Master of Works to King James VI, orders the *Marks* of all Masons to be inserted in their work.

“In the seventeenth century, Mother Kilwinning Lodge made members choose their Marks and charged them *four shillings* each for the same.

"On January 7th, A. D. 1778, the Banff Operative Lodge resolved—'That in time coming, all members that shall hereafter raise to the degree of Mark Mason, shall pay one merk scots, but not to obtain the Degree of Mark Mason, before they are passed Fellow Craft; and those that shall take the Degree of Mark Master Mason, shall pay one shilling and sixpence sterling unto the Treasurer for behoof of the Lodge. None to attain to the Degree of Mark Master Mason until they are raised Master.' This shows clearly the relative positions of the Degrees of Mark Mason or Mark Man, and Mark Master Mason, to each other, and to the Operative Craft. Every Operative Mason, or Fellow Craft, being obliged to be made a Mark Man or Mark Mason, before he could 'Mark' his work. While the Degree of Mark Master Mason was confined to those, who as Masters of Lodges or Master Masons, had been chosen to rule over the Fellow Crafts.

"The Most Worshipful Grand Master, at the conclusion of the ceremony of presentation, said:—'Brethren, I wish to inform Grand Lodge that, by virtue of the power vested in me, I have appointed Brother Drummond, Grand High Priest of the General Grand Royal Arch Chapter in the United States of America, to be Past Grand Senior Warden in this Grand Mark Lodge.'

"In the United States, since the middle of the last century, the Mark Degree has been conferred in independent Mark Lodges, as well as under the authority of Grand Chapters of the Royal Arch."

CONCLUSION:

In consequence of the failure to receive a large number of proceedings from jurisdictions we are in correspondence with, the foregoing report is not so satisfactory to ourselves as we would wish. Nor can we speak positively of the prosperity of all the Craft, because of the failure to receive their doings, and are therefore obliged to omit what would be an imperfect statistical table of Royal Arch Masonry in the United States and Canada. From those we have read, however, everything is encouraging, and our Order seems to be marching onward in the full tide of success in numbers, respectability, and intelligence, arguing a bright future for us.

As we are profiting largely by the industry manifested all over this continent by the different Grand Chapters, collaterally aided by the Reports of Correspondence, it behooves the reporters to be well on their guard, that their "zeal shall not outrun their dis-

cretion," nor their partiality for their own Grand Chapter blind them to the merits of sister Grand Bodies. But while watchful and jealous of any infraction of custom, usage, or law, from any quarter, let the broad mantle of charity cover us who so much need indulgence.

With the abiding faith, therefore, that the above *will* be the spirit with which our report will be criticised, we submit it with all its errors.

Fraternally,

WILLIAM J. KELLY,

Chairman of Committee on Foreign Correspondence.

REPRESENTATIVES
OF THE
GRAND HOLY ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER OF PENNSYLVANIA
NEAR OTHER GRAND CHAPTERS.

Comp. [REDACTED], near Grand Chapter of LOUISIANA.

“	JOHN WOOLVERTON,	“	“	“	NEW JERSEY.
“	JOHN D. DAGGETT,	“	“	“	MISSOURI.
“	JAMES R. BAYLEY,	“	“	“	OREGON.
“	JOHN W. SIMONS,	“	“	“	NEW YORK.
“	GEO. W. JENKINS,	“	“	“	TENNESSEE.
“	MARQUIS F. KING,	“	“	“	MAINE.
“	W.M. J. HUGHAN,	“	Grand Mark Lodge, ENGLAND.		

REPRESENTATIVES
OF OTHER GRAND CHAPTERS

NEAR THE GRAND CHAPTER OF PENNSYLVANIA.

Comp. MICHAEL NISBET, from Grand Chapter of OREGON.

“	“	“	“	“	“	Nova Scotia.
“	SAMUEL C. PERKINS,	“	“	“	“	LOUISIANA.
“	ALFRED R. POTTER,	“	“	“	“	NEW YORK.
“	[REDACTED]	“	“	“	“	MAINE.
“	ANDREW ROBENO, JR.,	“	“	“	“	MARYLAND.
“	HORACE FRITZ,	“	“	“	“	ILLINOIS.
“	CHARLES E. MEYER,	Grand Mark Lodge of ENGLAND.				

STATISTICS OF SUBORDINATE CHAPTERS AND LODGES
UNDER JURISDICTION OF
GRAND CHAPTER OF PENNSYLVANIA,
DECEMBER 27, 1873.

CHAPTERS.

Jerusalem Chapter, No. 3.

Philadelphia. *Fourth Monday.*

AUGUSTUS R. HALL, High Priest.

Samuel McCambridge, King. Dennis F. Dealy, Scribe.

James B. VanOsten, Treasurer. Charles E. Meyer, Secretary.

48 Marked; 48 Most Excellent; 43 Exalted; 5 admitted or restored; 11 died; 1 resigned; 6 suspended or expelled; 2 rejected; 362 members; fees, &c., \$232.30.

Perseverance Chapter, No. 21.

Harrisburg. *First Monday.*

ROBERT SNODGRASS, High Priest.

Isaac D. Lutz, King. Alexander W. Bergstresser, Scribe.

Elias S. Zollinger, Treasurer. John T. Wilson, Secretary.

12 Marked; 11 Most Excellent; 11 Exalted; 1 admitted or restored; 15 suspended or expelled; 144 members; fees, &c., \$60.08.

Chapter No. 43.

Lancaster. *Fourth Wednesday.*

WILLIAM J. FORDNEY, High Priest.

William Z. Sener, King. B. Frank Brenneman, Scribe.

Charles A. Heinrich, Treasurer. Hugh S. Gara, Secretary.

9 Marked; 11 Most Excellent; 11 Exalted; 4 admitted or restored; 1 died; 4 resigned; 12 suspended or expelled; 280 members; fees, &c., \$99.75.

Harmony Chapter, No. 52.

Philadelphia. *First Friday.*

WILLIAM C. HAMILTON, High Priest.

John Curtis, King. Philip W. Crawford, Scribe.

R. Lloyd Lee, Treasurer. William H. List, Secretary.

52 Marked; 57 Most Excellent; 60 Exalted; 5 admitted or restored; 14 died; 13 resigned; 23 suspended or expelled; 544 members; fees, &c., \$332.10.

Columbia Chapter, No. 91.

Philadelphia. *Third Wednesday.*

THOMAS S. WOODBURY, High Priest.

John J. Heisler, King.	Arthur S. Simpson, Scribe.
John Thomson, Treasurer.	J. Alexander Simpson, Secretary.
24 Marked; 29 Most Excellent; 29 Exalted; 8 died; 2 resigned; 7 suspended or expelled; 382 members; fees, &c., \$208.30.	

Washington Chapter, No. 150.

Washington. *Second Tuesday.*

H. D. ENOCH, High Priest.

W. W. McKEAN, King.	M. L. A. McCracken, Scribe.
James Walters, Treasurer.	John G. Ruple, Secretary.
1 Marked; 12 admitted or restored; 1 resigned; 55 members; fees, &c., \$16.88.	

Reading Chapter, No. 152.

Reading. *Second Monday.*

ALBERT RITTER, High Priest.

William J. Frame, King.	Frederick W. Lauer, Scribe.
Jesse Orr, Treasurer.	Henry C. L. Crecelius, Secretary.
8 Marked; 7 Most Excellent; 7 Exalted; 5 died; 3 resigned; 5 suspended or expelled; 217 members; fees, &c., \$75.98.	

Schuylkill Chapter, No. 159.

Minersville. *Thursday on or before Full Moon.*

SOLOMON A. PHILIPS, High Priest.

Felix Schloss, King.	Edward Noble, Scribe.
Francis Bedford, Treasurer.	John F. G. Kumsius, Secretary.
3 suspended or expelled; 45 members; fees, &c., \$13.50.	

Union Chapter, No. 161.

Towanda. *First Wednesday after Full Moon and two weeks after.*

JAMES H. CODDING, High Priest.

William Chamberlain, King.	William Stevenson, Scribe.
John A. Codding, Treasurer.	H. B. McKEAN, Secretary.
8 Marked; 8 Most Excellent; 8 Exalted; 3 resigned; 98 members; fees, &c., \$41.40.	

Zerubbabel Chapter, No. 162.

Pittsburg. *First Tuesday.*

GEORGE BAILEY, High Priest.

Charles Christian Baer, King.	John Aaron Wilson, Scribe.
James Shidle, Treasurer.	William Richardson, Jr., Secretary.
25 Marked; 25 Most Excellent; 30 Exalted; 1 admitted or restored; 1 died; 3 resigned; 1 rejected; 332 members; fees, &c., \$140.95.	

Lafayette Chapter, No. 163.

Lock Haven. Thursday after Full Moon.

WILLIAM REED, High Priest.

Orrin T. Noble, King.	Thomas Reed, Scribe.
Herman Simons, Treasurer.	William H. Smith, Secretary.
8 Marked; 9 Most Excellent; 8 Exalted; 2 died; 2 resigned; 5 rejected; 113 members; fees, &c., \$46.28.	

Brownsville Chapter, No. 164.

Brownsville. Second Tuesday.

WILLIAM CHATLAND, High Priest.

Isaac Jackson, King.	Dunham D. Williams, Scribe.
J. W. Jeffries, Treasurer.	George W. Lenhart, Secretary.
1 Marked; 1 Most Excellent; 1 Exalted; 1 admitted or restored; 1 died; 3 resigned; 4 suspended or expelled; 33 members; fees, &c., \$9.90.	

Union Chapter, No. 165.

Uniontown.

Returns not received according to the requirements of the Constitution.

Mt. Moriah Chapter, No. 166.

Hollidaysburg. Third Tuesday.

JOHN LUCKLING, High Priest.

John E. Burchinell, King.	Jacob A. Rohrer, Scribe.
Alexander M. Lloyd, Treasurer.	Thomas McFarlane, Secretary.
1 died; 52 members; fees, &c., \$15.20.	

Eureka Chapter, No. 167.

Rochester. Wednesday after Friday on or before Full Moon.

JOSEPH R. PENDLETON, High Priest.

W. H. Marshall, King.	A. C. Hurst, Scribe.
William Leaf, Treasurer.	John Conway, Secretary.
1 Marked; 1 Most Excellent; 1 Exalted; 1 admitted or restored; 1 died; 1 resigned; 3 suspended or expelled; 1 rejected; 55 members; fees, &c., \$19.83.	

Philadelphia Chapter, No. 169.

Philadelphia. Third Monday.

HIBBERT P. JOHN, High Priest.

William H. Heck, King.	Walter G. Wilson, Scribe.
William H. Hooper, Treasurer.	John C. Snowden, Secretary.
18 Marked; 20 Most Excellent; 21 Exalted; 1 admitted or restored; 2 died; 4 resigned; 4 suspended or expelled; 1 rejected; 226 members; fees, &c., \$130.40.	

Delta Chapter, No. 170.*New Castle. Monday on or before Full Moon.*

JAMES J. WALLACE, High Priest.

William R. Johnson, King.	Samuel W. Smith, Scribe.
Lee Raney, Treasurer.	William S. Emery, Secretary.
1 died; 3 resigned; 34 members; fees, &c., \$10.20.	

St. John's Chapter, No. 171.*Carlisle. First Thursday.*

BENJAMIN K. SPANGLER, High Priest.

Abraham Manning, King.	Charles H. Hepburn, Scribe.
John Hyer, Treasurer.	Ephraim Cornman, Secretary.
5 Marked; 5 Most Excellent; 5 Exalted; 1 died; 2 suspended or expelled; 75 members; fees, &c., \$30.00.	

Temple Chapter, No. 172.*Tunkhannock. Monday after Full Moon.*

Returns not received according to the requirements of the Constitution.

Easton Chapter, No. 173.*Easton. Fourth Monday.*

GAMBLE YOUNG, High Priest.

Abraham S. Deichman, King.	William F. Schlechter, Scribe.
Abraham Miller, (c,) Treasurer.	Daniel H. Neiman, Secretary.
15 Marked; 15 Most Excellent; 15 Exalted; 2 admitted or restored; 1 died; 6 resigned; 8 suspended or expelled; 50 members; fees, &c., \$76.50.	

Northumberland Chapter, No. 174.*Sunbury. Tuesday before Full Moon.*

A. G. POSTLETHWAITE, High Priest.

Samuel B. Morgan, King.	Henry Clement, Scribe.
Benjamin Zetelmoyer, Treasurer.	N. S. Engle, Secretary.
1 Marked; 1 Most Excellent; 2 Exalted; 3 died; 1 resigned; 4 suspended or expelled; 82 members; fees, &c., \$26.85.	

Keystone Chapter, No. 175.*Philadelphia. Fourth Thursday.*

WILLIAM A. SINN, High Priest.

Horace G. O. Ramborger, King.	William H. Baker, Scribe.
William T. Taylor, Treasurer.	Alfred T. Jones, Secretary.
19 Marked; 25 Most Excellent; 26 Exalted; 6 died; 14 resigned; 1 suspended or expelled; 291 members; fees, &c., \$164.40.	

George Washington Chapter, No. 176.

Chambersburg. Third Monday.

D. A. WERTZ, High Priest.

T. J. Grimison, King.	E. B. Winger, Scribe.
L. A. Hyssong, Treasurer.	A. C. McGrath, Secretary.
2 Marked; 2 Most Excellent; 3 Exalted; 1 admitted or restored;	
53 members; fees, &c., \$16.64.	

Tamaqua Chapter, No. 177.

Tamaqua. Friday after Full Moon.

EVAN T. JONES, High Priest.

Richard Boyd, King.	E. S. Solliday, Scribe.
M. P. Fowler, Treasurer.	William Barton, Secretary.
3 Marked; 3 Most Excellent; 3 Exalted; 7 admitted or re-	
stored; 1 resigned; 88 members; fees, &c., \$30.90.	

Catawissa Chapter, No. 178.

Catawissa. Wednesday on or before Full Moon.

W. H. ABBOTT, High Priest.

William H. Ellis, King.	Henry B. Alrich, Scribe.
Hiram J. Reeder, Treasurer.	Joseph B. Knittle, Secretary.
1 Marked; 1 Most Excellent; 1 Exalted; 5 admitted or re-	
stored; 22 members; fees, &c., \$8.10.	

Eureka Chapter, No. 179.

Carbondale. Wednesday after Full Moon.

JOSEPH ALEXANDER, Jr., High Priest.

William L. Yarrington, King.	David Moses, Scribe.
Thomas Orchard, Treasurer.	Charles O. Mellen, Secretary.
1 Marked; 1 Most Excellent; 1 Exalted; 1 admitted or re-	
stored; 57 members; fees, &c., \$18.60.	

Warren Chapter, No. 180.

Montrose. Thursday on or before Full Moon.

WILL S. E. BABCOCK, High Priest.

Moses S. Dessauer, King.	Leonard Searle, Jr., Scribe.
William H. Boyd, Treasurer.	William L. Cox, Secretary.
1 resigned; 57 members; fees, &c., \$17.10.	

Lilly Chapter, No. 181.

Mauch Chunk. Third Tuesday.

JOSEPH J. POOLE, High Priest.

E. W. Harlan, King.	John W. Crellin, Scribe.
James I. Blakslee, Treasurer.	James Houston, Secretary.
6 Marked; 8 Most Excellent; 8 Exalted; 4 resigned; 1 sus-	
pended or expelled; 142 members; fees, &c., \$58.35.	

Shekinah Chapter, No. 182.*Wilkesbarre.* *Third Tuesday.***G. W. KIRKENDALL**, High Priest.

E. P. Kisner, King.	Henry C. Smith, Scribe.
J. M. Cortright, Treasurer.	T. S. Hillard, Secretary.
7 Marked ; 6 Most Excellent ; 6 Exalted ; 1 admitted or restored ; 1 died ; 8 suspended or expelled ; 84 members ; fees, &c., \$34.58.	

Oriental Chapter, No. 183.*Philadelphia.* *Third Thursday.***• WILLIAM T. REYNOLDS**, High Priest.

B. Frank Abbott, King.	James S. Barber, Scribe.
Michael Nisbet, Treasurer.	Joseph H. Hedges, Secretary.
100 Marked ; 109 Most Excellent ; 108 Exalted ; 7 admitted or restored ; 1 died ; 3 resigned ; 4 rejected ; 628 members ; fees, &c., \$463.70.	

Lackawanna Chapter, No. 185.*Scranton.* *Second Tuesday.***JAMES E. BROWN**, High Priest.

C. L. VanBuskirk, King.	C. B. Derman, Scribe.
E. P. Kingsberry, Treasurer.	O. B. Wright, Secretary.
16 Marked ; 16 Most Excellent ; 17 Exalted ; 4 resigned ; 5 suspended or expelled ; 116 members ; fees, &c., \$61.05.	

Lewistown Chapter, No. 186.*Lewistown.* *Third Tuesday.***WILLIAM H. SWANZEY**, High Priest.

Joseph F. Mann, King.	John Davis, Scribe.
William Willis, Treasurer.	David E. Robeson, Secretary.
3 Marked ; 3 Most Excellent ; 3 Exalted ; 1 resigned ; 4 suspended or expelled ; 52 members ; fees, &c., \$18.98.	

Oriental Chapter, No. 187.*Conneautville.* *First and Third Fridays.***A. S. NELSON**, High Priest.

John W. Crider, King.	W. A. Rupert, Scribe.
J. C. Truesdale, Treasurer.	N. Truesdale, Secretary.
1 Marked ; 1 Most Excellent ; 1 Exalted ; 1 admitted or restored ; 2 resigned ; 50 members ; fees, &c., \$16.50.	

Mountain Chapter, No. 189.*Altoona.* *First Thursday.***HERMAN L. DELO**, High Priest.

Robert M. Wallace, King.	William Stimer, Scribe.
A. H. Maxwell, Treasurer.	Timothy Davis, Secretary.
9 Marked ; 9 Most Excellent ; 9 Exalted ; 3 died ; 1 resigned ; 72 members ; fees, &c., \$35.10.	

Norristown Chapter, No. 190.

Norristown.

Second Monday.

Returns not received according to the requirements of the Constitution.

Solomon Chapter, No. 191.

Meadville.

First Tuesday.

HENRY CHURCH, High Priest.

John Dick, King. M. Park Davis, Scribe.
 Jesse M. Dick, Treasurer. John C. Irvin, Secretary.
 4 Marked; 4 Most Excellent; 4 Exalted; 2 admitted or restored; 1 resigned; 4 suspended or expelled; 97 members; fees, &c., \$35.10.

Urania Chapter, No. 192.

Greensburg.

Fourth Tuesday.

JAMES W. WILSON, High Priest.

Robert W. Turney, King. Joseph Penrod, Scribe.
 Samuel S. Turney, Treasurer. John H. Highberger, Secretary.
 12 Marked; 12 Most Excellent; 11 Exalted; 2 died; 1 resigned; 116 members; fees, &c., \$52.05.

Duquesne Chapter, No. 193.

Pittsburg.

Fourth Tuesday.

JAMES H. MURDOCK, High Priest.

Albert G. Lucas, King. Robert W. McConnell, Scribe.
 John Evans, Treasurer. Stephen T. Northam, Secretary.
 19 Marked; 23 Most Excellent; 20 Exalted; 3 died; 3 rejected; 238 members; fees, &c., \$102.15.

Tioga Chapter, No. 194.

Wellsboro. Thursday on or before Full Moon.

THOMAS B. BRYDEN, High Priest.

Robert Roy, King. Morgan H. Scott, Scribe.
 Andrew Foley, Treasurer. Massena Bullard, Secretary.
 2 Most Excellent; 2 Exalted; 2 admitted or restored; 3 resigned; 46 members; fees, &c., \$16.05.

Portage Chapter, No. 195.

Johnstown.

Fourth Tuesday.

JOHN P. LINTON, High Priest.

Thomas H. Lapsley, King. Jacob M. Campbell, Scribe.
 John Benton, Treasurer. B. F. Speedy, Secretary.
 6 Marked; 6 Most Excellent; 6 Exalted; 2 resigned; 4 suspended or expelled; 43 members; fees, &c., \$21.90.

Mountain City Chapter, No. 196.

*Pottsville.**Monday after Full Moon.*

WILLIAM H. LEWIS, High Priest.

A. K. Whitner, King.	T. B. Inness, Scribe.
Daniel D. Moreton, Treasurer.	Emanuel Oppenheim, Secretary.
2 Marked ; 2 Most Excellent ; 2 Exalted ; 1 died ; 1 resigned ;	
10 suspended or expelled ; 98 members ; fees, &c., \$32.40.	

Weidle Chapter, No. 197.

*Lebanon.**Second Tuesday.*

GEORGE P. LINEAWEAVER, High Priest.

John Matthes, King.	Jacob Weidle, Scribe.
John D. Krause, Jr., Treasurer.	William G. Ward, Secretary.
1 Most Excellent ; 3 Exalted ; 1 died ; 3 suspended or expelled ;	
70 members ; fees, &c., \$23.62.	

Phœnix Chapter, No. 198.

*Phœnixville.**Saturday after Full Moon.*

V. N. SHAFFER, High Priest.

J. H. Binder, King.	Joseph Dobson, Scribe.
John Vanderslice, Treasurer.	Robert McAdam, Secretary.
6 Marked ; 8 Most Excellent ; 8 Exalted ; 2 died ; 83 members ;	
fees, &c., \$36.15.	

Howell Chapter, No. 199.

*York.**Second Wednesday.*

ISRAEL F. GROSS, High Priest.

Edwin C. Epley, King.	Jacob D. Heiges, Scribe.
Charles S. Weiser, Treasurer.	Fitz James Evans, Secretary.
5 Marked ; 4 Most Excellent ; 4 Exalted ; 1 died ; 3 resigned ;	
120 members ; fees, &c., \$42.38.	

Columbus Chapter, No. 200.

*Corry.**Thursday on or before Full Moon.*

RANDALL H. PALMER, High Priest.

Ave L. Langdon, King.	Ebenezer G. Stranahan, Scribe.
William C. Howard, Treasurer.	David S. Rowe, Secretary.
7 Marked ; 7 Most Excellent ; 7 Exalted ; 1 died ; 1 resigned ;	
64 members ; fees, &c., \$29.70.	

Standing Stone Chapter, No. 201.

*Huntingdon.**First Tuesday.*

THOMAS S. JOHNSTON, High Priest.

J. Simpson Africa, King.	Robert D. Steel, Scribe.
Joseph Watson, Treasurer.	John M. Bailey, Secretary.
1 Marked ; 1 Most Excellent ; 43 members ; fees, &c., \$13.65.	

Howell Chapter, No. 202.*West Chester. First Monday after Full Moon.*

NORRIS T. SMITH, High Priest.

George R. Hoopes, King.	G. F. Smith, Scribe.
William H. Morgan, Treasurer.	Wm. D. Christman, Secretary.
8 Marked; 6 Most Excellent; 6 Exalted; 1 died; 1 resigned;	
65 members; fees, &c., \$29.25.	

Allen Chapter, No. 203.*Allentown. Monday on or before Full Moon.*

JAMES B. ROEDER, High Priest.

Benjamin Lochman, King.	Tobias Kessler, Scribe.
Aaron Troxell, Treasurer.	Francis Z. Heebner, Secretary.
4 Marked; 4 Most Excellent; 4 Exalted; 2 admitted or restored;	
3 resigned; 1 suspended or expelled; 1 rejected; 139 members;	
fees, &c., \$48.00.	

Anthony Wayne Chapter, No. 204.*Honesdale. Tuesday succeeding Full Moon.*

HENRY J. TARBLE, High Priest.

Robert A. Smith, King.	Horace T. Menner, Scribe.
Charles Petersen, Treasurer.	Charles Menner, Secretary.
1 resigned; 35 members; fees, &c., \$10.50.	

Factoryville Chapter, No. 205.*Factoryville. Wednesday on or before Full Moon.*

C. B. REYNOLDS, High Priest.

James C. Gardner, King.	B. S. Gardner, Scribe.
S. E. Reynolds, Treasurer.	G. S. Wilson, Secretary.
1 resigned; 4 suspended or expelled; 30 members; fees, &c.,	
\$9.00.	

Harmony Chapter, No. 206.*New Brighton. First Thursday.*

EDWARD A. NOBLE, High Priest.

William H. Grim, King.	Charles K. Chamberlin, Scribe.
Philip Murtsoff, Treasurer.	Christian Moulter, Secretary.
1 Marked; 1 Most Excellent; 1 Exalted; 22 members; fees,	
&c., \$8.10.	

Aaron Chapter, No. 207.*Titusville. Third Friday.*

JAMES W. GRAHAM, High Priest.

George H. Coburn, King.	John C. Goetchius, Scribe.
Jacob Strauss, Treasurer.	Theodore J. Young, Secretary.
10 Marked; 11 Most Excellent; 11 Exalted; 1 admitted or re-	
stored; 2 resigned; 26 suspended or expelled; 122 members; fees,	
&c., \$52.73.	

Germantown Chapter, No. 208.

Germantown. *Fourth Monday.*

THOMAS J. DAVIS, High Priest.

George Scatchard, King. Amos H. Hall, Scribe.

William P. Walters, Treasurer. Alexander P. Keyser, Secretary.

13 Marked; 17 Most Excellent; 17 Exalted; 1 admitted or restored; 1 died; 3 resigned; 7 suspended or expelled; 123 members; fees, &c., \$81.20.

Samuel C. Perkins Chapter, No. 209.

Mechanicsburg. *Second Monday.*

ROBERT N. SHORT, High Priest.

Daniel W. Eberley, King. Silas W. Gleim, Scribe.

George A. Zacharias, Treasurer. E. Rankin Huston, Secretary.

4 Marked; 4 Most Excellent; 4 Exalted; 4 admitted or restored; 3 suspended or expelled; 2 died; 2 resigned; 52 members; fees, &c., \$21.60.

Great Bend Chapter, No. 210.

Great Bend. *Thursday on or before Full Moon.*

JOHN H. DUSENBURY, High Priest.

Charles Simpson, King. A. B. Whiting, Scribe.

John B. Johnson, Treasurer. N. L. Lenheim, Secretary.

7 Marked; 7 Most Excellent; 15 Exalted; 2 admitted or restored; 69 members; fees, &c., \$37.20.

Venango Chapter, No. 211.

Franklin. *Second Thursday.*

JOSEPH BELL, High Priest.

J. H. Simonds, King. H. A. Miller, Scribe.

Miles W. Sage, Treasurer. David D. Grant, Secretary.

6 Marked; 5 Most Excellent; 5 Exalted; 3 admitted or restored; 3 resigned; 3 suspended or expelled; 58 members; fees, &c., \$25.38.

Mound Chapter, No. 212.

Greenville. *Second and Fourth Mondays.*

JOSEPH VICKERS, High Priest.

Calvin R. Beatty, King. D. Heem, Scribe.

M. Roberts, Treasurer. W. Tillotson, Secretary.

14 Marked; 14 Most Excellent; 14 Exalted; 3 admitted or restored; 1 died; 11 resigned; 68 members; fees, &c., \$41.40.

Girard Chapter, No. 213.

Girard. *Second and Fourth Fridays.*

DAVID NASON, High Priest.

Henry A. Traut, King. S. L. Mason, Scribe.

George Feningham, Treasurer. A. R. Smith, Secretary.

1 admitted or restored; 1 resigned; 2 suspended or expelled; 17 members; fees, &c., \$5.10.

Valley Chapter, No. 214.*Plymouth. Friday on or before Full Moon.*

CHARLES W. JENKINS, High Priest.

Samuel U. Shaffer, King.	B. S. Blair, Scribe.
Samuel L. French, Treasurer.	A. G. Rickard, Secretary.
4 Marked; 4 Most Excellent; 4 Exalted; 1 died; 5 resigned;	
37 members; fees, &c., \$17.10.	

Temple Chapter, No. 215.*Erie. First Monday.*

JOHN J. WADSWORTH, High Priest.

Chester W. Stranahan, King.	Frank P. Longstreet, Scribe.
J. M. Bryant, Treasurer.	R. H. Moore, Secretary.
3 Marked; 3 Most Excellent; 3 Exalted; 1 admitted; 1 died;	
1 rejected; 9 suspended; 89 members; fees, &c., \$31.20.	

Zinzendorf Chapter, No. 216.*Bethlehem. Second Monday.*

GEORGE H. MEYERS, High Priest.

Allen J. Lawall, King.	James T. Borhek, Jr., Scribe.
Cornelius M. Knauss, Treasurer.	William V. Knauss, Secretary.
6 Marked; 6 Most Excellent; 6 Exalted; 1 admitted or restored;	
1 resigned; 71 members; fees, &c., \$30.30.	

Alleghany Chapter, No. 217.*Alleghany. First Friday.*

RICHARD W. ARMSTRONG, High Priest.

William Stuart, King.	William Paul, Jr., Scribe.
Nathan Graham, Treasurer.	Adolphe H. Bocking, Secretary.
24 Marked; 24 Most Excellent; 25 Exalted; 3 admitted or re-	
stored; 2 died; 3 resigned; 2 rejected; 209 members; fees, &c.,	
\$99.45.	

Bloomsburg Chapter, No. 218.*Bloomsburg. First Wednesday.*

JOHN C. RUTTER, High Priest.

William O. Holmes, King.	Charles W. Miller, Scribe.
Jeremiah J. Brower, Treasurer.	Christian F. Knapp, Secretary.
3 Marked; 3 Most Excellent; 4 Exalted; 16 admitted or re-	
stored; 3 resigned; 68 members; fees, &c., \$25.65.	

Griscom Chapter, No. 219.*Ashland. Third Thursday.*

WILLIAM H. ANTHONY, High Priest.

Levi C. Leib, King.	Thomas L. Hess, Scribe.
Henry S. Boner, Treasurer.	George H. Helfrich, Secretary.
12 Marked; 15 Most Excellent; 14 Exalted; 2 admitted or re-	
stored; 1 suspended or expelled; 75 members; fees, &c., \$43.13.	

Fort Washington Chapter, No. 220.*Fort Washington. Thursday before Full Moon.*

Returns not received according to the requirements of the Constitution.

Tremont Chapter, No. 221.*Tremont. First Monday after Full Moon.*

JOHN B. ZEIBACH, High Priest.

Calvin W. Brower, King. Lewis W. Heil, Scribe.

Daniel B. Althouse, Treasurer. Benjamin Kaufman, Secretary.

11 Marked; 12 Most Excellent; 12 Exalted; 1 resigned; 41 members; fees, &c., \$29.92.

Lycoming Chapter, No. 222.*Williamsport. Second Tuesday.*

ADDIS MCVEAGH, High Priest.

William B. Maitland, King. Seth T. Foresman, Scribe.

A. Niemeyer, Treasurer. William Randall Prior, Secretary.

7 Marked; 7 Most Excellent; 7 Exalted; 3 admitted or restored; 1 died; 2 resigned; 2 rejected; 90 members; fees, &c., \$37.50.

Oxford Chapter, No. 223.*Oxford. Wednesday after Full Moon.*

GEORGE D. HAYES, High Priest.

Samuel H. Dillin, King. Alexander H. Ingram, Scribe.

Franklin P. Ash, Treasurer. George Cooke, Secretary.

3 Marked; 2 Most Excellent; 2 Exalted; 1 suspended or expelled; 40 members; fees, &c., \$15.37.

Corinthian Chapter, No. 224.*Columbia. Second Tuesday.*

C. L. P. BOICE, High Priest.

Thomas J. Clepper, King. Andrew M. Rambo, Scribe.

Charles H. Pfahler, Treasurer. Stephen S. Clair, Secretary.

1 Marked; 1 Most Excellent; 1 Exalted; 58 members; fees, &c., \$18.90.

Jefferson Chapter, No. 225.*Brookville. First Wednesday after Second Monday.*

WILSON R. RAMSEY, High Priest.

James K. Hamilton, King. John McMurray, Scribe.

Madison M. Meredith, Treasurer. W. D. J. Marlin, Secretary.

4 Marked; 3 Most Excellent; 2 Exalted; 1 admitted or restored; 36 members; fees, &c., \$19.90.

Siloam Chapter, No. 226.

Frankford. *Third Wednesday.*

EDWARD E. WILLIAMS, High Priest.
 John Cartledge, King. Isaac Walker, Scribe.
 John Cooper, Treasurer. Thaddeus Stearne, Secretary.
 25 Marked; 28 Most Excellent; 28 Exalted; 2 resigned; 100
 members; fees, &c., \$94.50.

Emporium Chapter, No. 227.

Emporium. *First and Third Wednesdays.*

HIRAM C. ROCKWELL, High Priest.
 Joseph W. Cochran, King. D. V. Miner, Scribe.
 F. J. Goodwin, Treasurer. Caleb Sweasey, Secretary.
 9 Marked; 8 Most Excellent; 8 Exalted; 1 admitted or restored;
 1 resigned; 44 members; fees, &c., \$25.38.

Clearfield Chapter, No. 228.

Clearfield. *Fourth Wednesday.*

JOHN R. CULLINGWORTH, High Priest.
 Hiram T. King, King. Reuben McPherson, Scribe.
 Daniel W. McCurdy, Treasurer. William Radebaugh, Secretary.
 7 Marked; 7 Most Excellent; 7 Exalted; 67 members; fees,
 &c., \$19.48.

Newtown Chapter, No. 229.

Newtown. *Wednesday after Full Moon.*

JOSEPH W. WILLARD, High Priest.
 Joseph B. Roberts, King. Henry D. Lefferts, Scribe.
 William K. Carver, Treasurer. O. W. Worstall, Secretary.
 3 Marked; 4 Most Excellent; 4 Exalted; 1 admitted or restored;
 35 members; fees, &c., \$14.63.

Elk Chapter, No. 230.

Ridgway. *Third Tuesday.*

RUFUS LUCORE, High Priest.
 William H. Schram, King. W. C. Healy, Scribe.
 Byron F. Ely, Treasurer. Horace Warner, Secretary.
 9 Marked; 9 Most Excellent; 9 Exalted; 1 resigned; 54 mem-
 bers; fees, &c., \$29.10.

Bristol Chapter, No. 231.

Bristol. *Saturday after Full Moon.*

CHARLES E. SCOTT, High Priest.
 John G. Vandegrift, King. Frederick Staake, Scribe.
 William B. Baker, Treasurer. Lewis M. Wharton, Secretary.
 7 Marked; 8 Most Excellent; 9 Exalted; 2 admitted or re-
 stored; 1 died; 47 members; fees, &c., \$26.23.

St. John Chapter, No. 232.
Philadelphia. First Tuesday.

JOHN M. HOWLAND, High Priest.

Robert H. Vaughan, King. Charles Laing, Scribe.
 Edward Masson, Treasurer. Charles Carroll Burns, Secretary.
 33 Marked; 26 Most Excellent; 25 Exalted; 3 admitted or restored; 2 died; 2 resigned; 3 rejected; 200 members; fees, &c., \$134.50.

Kensington Chapter, No. 233.
Kensington, Philadelphia City. Fourth Monday.

GRIFFITH O. STORRIE, High Priest.

Henry R. Price, King. William B. Fox, Scribe.
 Jonathan Dickinson, Treasurer. Charles K. Neisser, Secretary.
 37 Marked; 46 Most Excellent; 46 Exalted; 6 died; 10 resigned; 1 rejected; 304 members; fees, &c., \$289.10.

Media Chapter, No. 234.
Media. Tuesday after Full Moon.

Returns not received according to the requirements of the Constitution.

Occidental Chapter, No. 235.
Warren. First and Third Mondays.

HENRY S. GETZ, High Priest.

Joseph F. Wells, King. Thomas Keeler, Scribe.
 Stephen Carver, Treasurer. P. H. Weaver, Secretary.
 4 Marked; 4 Most Excellent; 3 Exalted; 1 resigned; 1 suspended or expelled; 29 members; fees, &c., \$13.95.

Oil City Chapter, No. 236.
Oil City. Second and Fourth Thursdays.

ANDREW W. COX, High Priest.

Charles L. Catlin, King. Stephen T. Garland, Scribe.
 William H. Duncan, Treasurer. William W. White, Secretary.
 13 Marked; 17 Most Excellent; 15 Exalted; 2 admitted or restored; 1 died; 1 resigned; 56 members; fees, &c., \$39.30.

Excelsior Chapter, No. 237.
Reading. Third Wednesday.

CALVIN D. MOSER, High Priest.

Edward H. Schearer, King. Amon L. Boyer, Scribe.
 Cyrenius Sellers, Treasurer. George P. Zieber, Secretary.
 12 Marked; 14 Most Excellent; 14 Exalted; 2 admitted or restored; 2 died; 63 members; fees, &c., \$39.15.

Newport Chapter, No. 238.

Newport. *Monday preceding the Tuesday before Full Moon.*

HARRY C. EAGLE, High Priest.

John E. Hollobaugh, King. John P. Clark, Scribe.

Joshua E. Singer, Treasurer. William H. Bosserman, Secretary.

11 Marked; 11 Most Excellent; 11 Exalted; 1 admitted or restored; 1 died; 28 members; fees, &c., \$24.90.

Danville Chapter, No. 239.

Danville. *First Monday.*

JOHN W. VON NEIDA, High Priest.

Alexander J. Frick, King. M. B. Allebach, Scribe.

David Clark, Treasurer. Frank C. Derr, Secretary.

6 Marked; 7 Most Excellent; 7 Exalted; 6 admitted; 1 resigned; 37 members; fees, &c., \$20.48.

Palestine Chapter, No. 240.

Philadelphia. *Second Friday.*

ANDREW ZANE, JR., High Priest.

William B. Wood, King. T. Worcester Worrell, Scribe.

John S. Thackray, Treasurer. Charles Mathews, Jr., Secretary.

59 Marked; 66 Most Excellent; 53 Exalted; 5 admitted; 2 resigned; 3 rejected; 147 members; fees, &c., \$174.30.

Bellefonte Chapter, No. 241.

Bellefonte. *Thursday preceding Second Friday.*

ADOLPH LOEB, High Priest.

Harman Lechler, King. Samuel Durbin Gray, Scribe.

John P. Harris, Treasurer. George B. Weaver, Secretary.

11 Marked; 11 Most Excellent; 11 Exalted; 3 admitted or restored; 1 died; 48 members; fees, &c., \$30.90.

Pittston Chapter, No. 242.

Pittston. *Last Thursday.*

CHARLES R. GORMAN, High Priest.

David McKown, King. Addison K. Howe, Scribe.

John S. Hurlbut, Treasurer. Lucius B. Ensign, Secretary.

7 Marked; 7 Most Excellent; 7 Exalted; 21 admitted or restored; 28 members; fees, &c., \$18.90.

Tristam B. Freeman Chapter, No. 243.

Kensington, Philadelphia City. *First Monday.*

GEORGE CARNELL, High Priest.

Edgar Fries, King. Henry Euler, Jr., Scribe.

Benjamin R. Caskey, Treasurer. George M. D. Apple, Secretary.

40 Marked; 47 Most Excellent; 46 Exalted; 45 admitted; 1 rejected; 85 members; fees, &c., \$123.50.

Norman Chapter, No. 244.

Sharon. *Fourth Monday.*

MATTHIAS H. HENDERSON, High Priest.

Edward P. Foster, King. Frank H. Morrison, Scribe.

Michael Zahniser, Treasurer. William B. Marshall, Secretary.

23 Marked; 23 Most Excellent; 22 Exalted; 19 admitted or restored; 2 rejected; 42 members; fees, &c., \$46.35.

Abington Chapter, No. 245.

Jenkintown. *Tuesday after Full Moon.*

JOHN W. RIDPATH, High Priest.

Lewis B. Gusman, King. Daniel H. Yerkes, Scribe.

Charles Harper, Treasurer. John J. C. Harvey, Secretary.

7 admitted; 7 members; fees, &c., \$2.10.

M A R K L O D G E S.

Columbia Mark Lodge, No. 91.

Philadelphia. *Second Monday.*

ARTHUR S. SIMPSON, Worshipful Master.

Joseph R. Clausen, S. W. Sylvester Bonaffon, Jr., J. W.

William Leach, Treasurer. James Bleloch, Secretary.

1 Marked; 15 died; 4 resigned; 21 suspended or expelled; 1 rejected; 821 members; fees, &c., \$165.20.

Girard Mark Lodge, No. 214.

Philadelphia. *Second Tuesday.*

GEORGE E. WAGNER, Worshipful Master.

Robert Clark, S. W. Phineas Garrett, Jr., J. W.

Harman Baugh, Treasurer. Thomas S. Woodbury, Secretary.

2 Marked; 15 died; 4 resigned; 13 suspended or expelled; 891 members; fees, &c., \$172.80.

Excelsior Mark Lodge, No. 216.

Philadelphia. *Third Tuesday.*

JACOB F. STAHL, Worshipful Master.

Lewis McAllister, S. W. Samuel B. Nones, J. W.

Thomas R. Patton, Treasurer. Samuel W. Wray, Secretary.

3 Marked; 5 died; 3 resigned; 1 suspended or expelled; 644 members; fees, &c., \$129.50.

RECAPITULATION.

Mark Lodges.	1872.	1873.
Number of Mark Lodges.....	3	3
Marked.....	7	6
Suspended or Expelled.....	34	35
Died.....	}	35
Resigned.....	51	11
Admitted or Restored.....	2	0
Members.....	2399	2356

Chapters.

Number of Subordinate Chapters.....	86	90
Marked.....	814	927
Received and Accepted Most Excellent Masters.....	909	994
Exalted.....	988	987
Admitted or Restored.....	188	222
Died.....	}	99
Resigned.....	259	157
Suspended or Expelled.....	133	194
Rejected.....	32	33
Number of Members.....	8226	8994
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Making total number of members in 1873.....		9209



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OFFICERS
OF
Grand Holy Royal Arch Chapter of Pennsylvania.
1874.

Comp. ANDREW ROBENO, Jr.,

M. E. Grand High Priest.

P. O. Address, New Masonic Temple, Broad and Filbert Streets, Philadelphia.

" ROBERT H. PATTISON,

M. E. Grand King.

" GEORGE E. WAGNER,

M. E. Grand Scribe.

" THOMAS R. PATTON,

M. E. Grand Treasurer.

" JOHN THOMSON,

M. E. Grand Secretary.

P. O. Address, New Masonic Temple, Broad and Filbert Streets, Philadelphia.

COMMITTEE ON CORRESPONDENCE.

COMP. WILLIAM J. KELLY, Chairman.

P. O. Address, New Masonic Temple, Broad and Filbert Streets, Philadelphia.

COMP. JAMES H. HOPKINS,

COMP. THOMAS JACOBS,

" GEORGE GRISCOM,

" EDWIN G. MARTIN.

THE ANNUAL GRAND COMMUNICATION

Is held on St. John the Evangelist's Day, December 27, annually.

QUARTERLY GRAND COMMUNICATIONS

Are held on the First Thursday of February, May, August, and November.

GRAND CHAPTER
OF
PENNSYLVANIA.

1874.

PENNSYLVANIA.

ABSTRACT OF THE PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

Grand Holy Royal Arch Chapter

OF

PENNSYLVANIA,

AND MASONIC JURISDICTION THEREUNTO BELONGING

FOR THE YEAR

A. D. 1874. A. I. 2404.



PHILADELPHIA :

PRINTED FOR THE GRAND CHAPTER OF PENNSYLVANIA.

MASONIC PUBLISHING Co., PRS., 237-9 DOCK STREET.

1875.



Grand Holy Royal Arch Chapter

OF PENNSYLVANIA.

QUARTERLY COMMUNICATION

Held at Philadelphia, Feb. 5th, A. D. 1874, A. F. 2404.

Comp. ANDREW ROBENO, JR.,	.	<i>Grand High Priest..</i>
“ ROBERT H. PATTISON, .	.	“ <i>King.</i>
“ GEORGE E. WAGNER, .	.	“ <i>Scribe.</i>
“ THOMAS R. PATTON, .	.	“ <i>Treasurer.</i>
“ JOHN THOMSON, .	.	“ <i>Secretary.</i>

Twenty-one Chapters represented.

A communication was received from Companion Horace H. Burbank, G. H. P. of the Grand Chapter of Maine, appointing Companion John L. Young as Grand Representative, which was received, and Companion Young acknowledged as such.

The Committee on Finance made the following report, which was approved and the resolution adopted :

“ That at the session held on January 29th, the following bills were presented to them for their action :—One from Companion Jas. E. Kryder, for the usual printing of circulars, notices, &c., during the year 1873, amounting to \$99.37, approved by the Grand Secretary, and James Blaylock, Chairman Committee on Printing. One from Companion J. E. Kryder, for printing and binding 525 copies of the Proceedings relative to the decease of Most Excellent Grand King, Jno. Wilson, Jr., including extra bound copies for the family, amounting to \$103.25, approved by C. E. Meyer, Grand High Priest, and James Blaylock, Chairman Committee on Printing. One from Companion James E. Kryder, for postage stamps for mailing Proceedings, \$15.00, and packing and expressing,

\$7.50, amounting to \$22.60, marked correct by Companion Chas. E. Meyer, Grand High Priest, and countersigned by Jas. Blaylock, Chairman Committee on Printing. One from Companion Jas. E. Kryder, for work done in August, 1873, and subsequent thereto, being for printing circulars for the Dedication, and eight octavo pages Programme of Proceedings incident to the Consecration of the Grand Chapter Hall, amounting to \$42.30, marked correct by Chas. E. Meyer, Grand High Priest, and countersigned by Companion Jas. Blaylock, Chairman Committee on Printing. The accounts enumerated above and which were outstanding without the knowledge of this Committee, and which were not presented to your Committee prior to or at the close of the fiscal year in accordance with the provisions of Section 3, Article IX., of the Constitution of the Grand Chapter, specifying the duties of the Finance Committee, prevented them from making any provision for their payment in the estimates submitted to your body for the year 1874, and approved at the November Session thereof. We feel ourselves thereupon compelled, at this time, to submit the case to your consideration, and ask the passage of the following:

“Resolved, That a *special* appropriation of \$167.52 be, and hereby, made to liquidate expenses incurred as per accompanying bills.

“Resolved, That all Officers and Committees of the Grand Holy Royal Arch Chapter of Pennsylvania, entrusted with expenditures or the disbursements of its moneys, shall confine themselves strictly within the amount so appropriated for said purpose, and in no case exceed the sum without first receiving the approval of the Grand Chapter.

Respectfully and Fraternally,

CONRAD B. DAY,
A. NELSON BATTON,
M. RICHARDS MUCKLE,
DENNIS F. DEALLEY,

Committee.

QUARTERLY COMMUNICATION,

Held at Philadelphia, May 7th, 1874, A. I. 2404.

Companion ANDREW ROBENO, JR., *Most Excellent Grand High Priest*, presiding.

A communication was received from Chapter No. 178, asking the Grand Chapter to restore to good Masonic standing S—H—, late a member of Chapter No. 178, before the Charter was sequestrated, and on motion it was referred to the Grand Officers, with power to act, and power was also given to the Grand Officers to act in all similar cases from Chapter, No. 178.

Petitions were received for Warrants for Chapters to meet at the following places, to-wit:—At Watson-town, Northumberland County; Kittanning, Armstrong County; Monongahela City, Washington County, and Philadelphia, which were referred to the Grand Officers, with power to act.

The Amendment to the Constitution offered by the Committee on Finance, at the Communication in November last, was taken up and amended and adopted to read as follows:

SEC. 78. With every return shall be transmitted the fees and dues to the Grand Chapter which have accrued thereon; and any Chapter or Lodge in arrears for dues, &c., *on the first day of May*, shall be forthwith notified thereof by the Grand Secretary, and if such arrears be not discharged within six months from *said date*, the warrant of the defaulting Chapter or Lodge is *ipso facto* suspended, and unless cause be shown to the contrary, may be vacated at the next or any subsequent Quarterly Communication of the Grand Chapter. During the suspension of any Chapter or Lodge for either of the causes mentioned in this and the next preceding Section, its representatives cannot be admitted to the Communications of the Grand Chapter.

QUARTERLY COMMUNICATION,

Held at Philadelphia, August 6, A. D. 1874, A. I. 2404.

Companion ANDREW ROBENO, JR., *Most Excellent Grand High Priest*, presiding.

Eighteen Chapters represented.

Petitions for new warrants were received from two new Chapters to meet in Philadelphia.

A communication was received from Companion B. M. Harris, Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Virginia, appointing Companion Robert M. Pattison Grand Representative of said Grand Chapter. On motion, Companion Pattison was duly recognized as such.

The Most Excellent Grand High Priest then announced the decease of Past Grand High Priest Companion Samuel H. Perkins, and stated that he had requested Companion Past Grand High Priest George Griscom to prepare fitting resolutions thereon.

A Mark Master's Lodge was then opened for the exemplification of the work, when the Degree was conferred upon three qualified and approved candidates, furnished for the purpose by Chapters No. 3, No. 175, and No. 232.

QUARTERLY COMMUNICATON,

Held at Philadelphia, Nov. 5th, A. D. 1874, A. I. 2404.

Present:

Comp. ANDREW ROBENO, JR.,	- - -	<i>M. E. Grand High Priest.</i>
" ROBERT H. PATTISON,	- - -	<i>M. E. Grand King.</i>
" GEORGE E. WAGNER,	- - -	<i>M. E. Grand Scribe.</i>
" THOMAS R. PATTON,	- - -	<i>M. E. Grand Treasurer.</i>
" JOHN THOMSON,	- - -	<i>M. E. Grand Secretary.</i>
" J. ALEX. SIMPSON,	- - -	<i>Assistant Grand Secretary.</i>
" TURNER, SNYDER, HOWELL, HILLARD, OWEN, DUSENBURY, ORR, WILTBURGER,	}	<i>District Deputy Grand High Priests.</i>
" DAVID B. TAYLOR,	- - -	<i>Grand Captain of the Host.</i>
" JESSE ORR,	- - -	<i>Grand Principal Sojourner.</i>
" WILLIAM H. BURKHARDT,	-	<i>Grand R. A. Captain.</i>
" McLAUGHLIN, McGOWAN, DAVIS,		<i>Grand Chaplains.</i>
" ED. MATTHEWS,	- - -	<i>Grand Master of 3rd Vail.</i>
" HIBBERT P. JOHN,	- - -	<i>Grand Master of 2d Vail.</i>
" THOMAS S. WOODBURY,	- -	<i>Grand Master 1st Vail.</i>
" EDWARD MASSON,	- - -	<i>Grand Marshall.</i>
" ROBERT H. VAUGHAN,	- -	<i>Grand S. Master of Cere.</i>
" WILLIAM T. REYNOLDS,	- -	<i>Grand Jr. Master of Cere.</i>
" WILLIAM C. HAMILTON,	-	<i>Grand Pursuivant.</i>
" HARRISON G. GLARK,	- - -	<i>Grand Tyler.</i>

Past Grand High Priests, Companions THOMPSON, WOOD, NISBET and MEYER.

Comp. CHAS. E. MEYER, *Representative of the Grand Mark Lodge of England, and of the Grand Chapter of Illinois.*

Comp. ANDREW ROBENO, JR., *Rep. of the Grand Chapter of Maryland.*

" ROBERT H. PATTISON, *Rep. of the Grand Chapter of Virginia.*

" DAVID B. TAYLOR, *Rep. of the Grand Chapter of District of Columbia.*

Comp. ALFRED R. POTTER, *Rep. of the Grand Chapter of New York.*

" JOHN L. YOUNG, *Rep. of the Grand Chapter of Maine.*

Twenty-six Chapters represented.

The Committee on Finance made the following Report, which was approved and the resolutions adopted, to wit:

REPORT.

To the Grand Holy Royal Arch Chapter of Pennsylvania.

COMPANIONS:

The Committee on Finance would respectfully report: That they have examined the accounts of the Most Excellent Grand Treasurer, Companion Thomas R. Patton, from December 27th, 1873, to October 31st, 1874, and the accounts of the Most Excellent Grand Secretary, Companion John Thomson, from October 31st, 1873 to October 31st, 1874, and find them correct, and agreeing with their vouchers, showing a balance of \$601.32 in the hands of the Grand Treasurer.

We have also examined the accounts of the Most Excellent Grand High Priest for current expenses, during the year, and the accounts of the Committee on Printing and Publishing, and find them to agree with their vouchers.

The Receipts and Expenditures for the fiscal year, commencing November 1st, 1873, and ending October 31st, 1874, have been as follows:

Receipts and Expenditures of the Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania, from November 1st, 1873 to October 31st, 1874, inclusive:

Balance on hand October 31st, 1873,	- - - - -	\$160 19
Received for dues and fees from Chapters,	- - - - -	4,944 16
" " " " Mark Lodges,	- - - - -	450 30
From E. S. Keeler for sale of tickets to Dedication Banquet in 1873,	- - - - -	150 00
Received for interest, as follows:		
On \$17,000 invested in Masonic Loan,	- - - - -	1,241 00
On deposits by Grand Treasurer, Thos. Brown, in 1873,	- - - - -	10 90
On deposits by Grand Treasurer, Thos. R. Patton, in 1874,	- - - - -	53 63
Received for new warrants,	- - - - -	700 00
From sale of Certificates,	- - - - -	15 00
" " Reprint of Proceedings of Grand Chapter,	- - - - -	5 00
Sale of Constitutions of the Grand Chapter,	- - - - -	20 00
 Total,	- - - - -	\$7,750 18

Brought forward, - - - - - \$7,750 18

Expenditures.

Paid Expenses of D. D. G. H. Priests,	- - - - -	\$393 66
" " G. H. Priest Comp. Meyer in '73,	48 00	
" " " " Robeno in '74,	500 00	
Rent in Chestnut St., to October 1st, 1873,	- - - - -	80 00
" Temple, to October 1st, 1874,	- - - - -	2,500 00
Paid balance on organ,	- - - - -	1,350 00
" tuning organ to date,	- - - - -	37 50
" for photographic frames in room of G. H P.,	8 00	
" " locker for G. H. P. Comp. Meyer in 1873,	5 00	
" " moving furniture from Chestnut street,	7 50	
" " funeral expenses P.G. H. P. Sam'l H. Perkins,	15 00	
Salaries:		
Grand Secretary, July 1st, 1873, to Oct. 1st, 1874,	- - - - -	937 50
Clerk, Oct. 1st, 1873, to Oct. 1st, 1874,	- - - - -	300 00
Grand Tyler Schnider in 1873,	- - - - -	50 00
" " Clark, to Oct. 1st, 1874,	- - - - -	75 00
Stationery, postage, &c., 1873,	- - - - -	148 00
" and other expenses, 1874,	- - - - -	63 65
" for Grand Treasurer Patton, including account book,	- - - - -	17 60
Printing:		
Notices, blanks, &c., in 1874,	- - - - -	113 13
Annual Proceedings	"	231 80
Printing done in 1873, for which an extra appropria- tion was made,	- - - - -	267 52
<hr/>		
Total paid out,	- - - - -	\$7,148 86
<hr/>		
Balance on hand, Oct. 1st, 1874,	- - - - -	\$601 32

The Grand Secretary has furnished a balance sheet, to October 31st, 1874, hereto attached, showing \$80.36 to be due to the Grand Chapter, from various subordinate Chapters and \$68 59 due to various subordinate Chapters by the Grand Chapter, leaving \$11.80 as the total amount, which can be added to the funds now on hand, up to December 27th, 1874, thus making \$613.12 with which to pay balance of appropriations which have already been made as follows:

Rent from Oct. 1st, to Dec. 27th, 1874,	- - - - -	\$625 00
Salary of Grand Secretary, from Oct. 1st, to Dec. 27th, 1874,	- - - - -	187 50
" " Clerk to Grand Secretary, from Oct. 1st, to Dec. 27th, 1874,	- - - - -	75 00
Salary of Grand Tyler, from Oct. 1st, to Dec. 27th, 1874,	- - - - -	25 00
<hr/>		
Making a total of	- - - - -	\$912 50

Showing amount short, to pay all indebtedness to December 27, 1874, to be \$299 38.

The investments of the Grand Chapter are all in New Masonic Temple Loan 7 3-10 interest, and are :

First Series Certificate,	- - - - -	33	\$3,000 00
" "	- - - - -	104	2,800 00
" "	- - - - -	281	1,500 00
Second "	- - - - -	39	3,500 00
Third "	- - - - -	58	2,500 00
Eighth "	- - - - -	6	1,700 00
" "	- - - - -	7	2,000 00
			<hr/>
Total,	- - - - -		\$17,000 00

All of which are in the possession of the Grand Treasurer, Companion Thomas R. Patton.

The Committee presents the following estimate of the receipts and expenditures for the year 1875 :

Receipts.

Dues and fees from Chapters and Mark Lodges,	- - - - -	\$5,000 00
New Warrants,	- - - - -	300 00
Interest on Investments,	- - - - -	1,241 00
Balance Cash on hand October 31, 1874,	- - - - -	601 32
		<hr/>
		\$7,142 32

Expenditures.

Rent for 1875,	- - - - -	\$2,500 00
Salary Grand Secretary, 1875,	- - - - -	750 00
" Clerk to Grand Secretary, 1875,	- - - - -	300 00
" Grand Tyler, 1875,	- - - - -	100 00
Printing, including Annual Proceedings,	- - - - -	400 00
Expenses Grand Chapter, Stationery, Postage, &c.,	- - - - -	300 00
" D. D. Grand High Priests,	- - - - -	400 00
" M. E. Grand High Priest,	- - - - -	1,200 00
To pay balances due on appropriation made for year ending December 27th, 1874,	-	912 50
		<hr/>
Showing a surplus of	- - - - -	6,862 50
		<hr/>
		\$279 82

The Committee offer the annexed resolution :

Resolved, That the following appropriations be made for the year 1875 : for

Expenses of the M. E. Grand High Priest,	- - - - -	1,200 00
" " D. D. Grand High Priests,	- - - - -	400 00
Rent for 1875,	- - - - -	2,500 00
Salaries for 1875,	- - - - -	1,150 00
Printing, including Annual Proceedings,	- - - - -	400 00
Current Expenses, Stationery, Postage, &c.,	- - - - -	300 00

Resolved, That the Most Excellent Grand High Priest be, and he is, hereby authorized to draw his warrants on the Most

Excellent Grand Treasurer for the above amounts as they become due.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

CONRAD B. DAY,
DENNIS F. DEALY,
M. RICH. MUCKLE,
A. NELSON BATTEN, } Committee.

Philadelphia, Nov. 2, 1874.

Balances of Grand Chapter accounts, October 31st, 1874:

Due from Chapter No. 21,	-	-	-	-	\$2 40
" " 150,	-	-	-	-	1 18
" " 187,	-	-	-	-	16 50
" " 203,	-	-	-	-	1 12
" " 215,	-	-	-	-	17 78
" " 230,	-	-	-	-	2 10
" " 236,	-	-	-	-	39 30
					<hr/>
Expenses of M. E. Grand High Priest,	-	-	-	-	\$80 36
" D. D. Grand High Priests,	-	-	-	-	553 00
" Grand Chapter,	-	-	-	-	393 66
Expenses and Salaries of Grand Officers,	-	-	-	-	4,689 70
Investments,	-	-	-	-	1,362 50
Cash on hand,	-	-	-	-	17,000 00
					601 32
					<hr/>
Due to Chapter No. 3,	-	-	-	\$0 20	\$24,680 54
" " 166,	-	-	-	60	
" " 167,	-	-	-	1 23	
" " 179,	-	-	-	60	
" " 181,	-	-	-	37 60	
" " 206,	-	-	-	2 70	
" " 210,	-	-	-	2 40	
" " 211,	-	-	-	1 57	
" " 220,	-	-	-	3 00	
" " 225,	-	-	-	8 44	
" " 227,	-	-	-	3 40	
" " 239,	-	-	-	6 82	
				<hr/>	\$68 56
Received for Dues and Fees,	-	-	-	5,319 78	
" Interest,	-	-	-	1,305 53	
" Warrants,	-	-	-	700 00	
" Certificates, &c.,	-	-	-	40 00	
Profit and Loss account,	-	-	-	2 00	
Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania,	-	-	-	17,244 67	<hr/>
					\$24,680 24

Balances of Grand Chapter accounts, November 1st, 1874, after the closing entries are made for the fiscal year of 1874:

Due from Chapters, as above,	-	-	-	-	-	\$80 36
Investments,	-	-	-	-	-	17,000 00
Cash on hand,	-	-	-	-	-	601 32
						<hr/>
Due to Chapters, as above,	-	-	-	-	\$68 56	\$17 681 68
Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania,	-	-	-	-	17,613 12	<hr/> \$17,681 68

This being the time fixed by the Constitution for the election of officers to serve the Grand Chapter for the ensuing Masonic year, tellers were appointed, who after receiving the votes, announced the following as the result, to wit:

Comp. ANDREW ROBENO, JR.,	-	<i>M. E. Grand High Priest.</i>
" ROBERT H. PATTISON,	-	<i>M. E. Grand King.</i>
" GEORGE E. WAGNER,	-	<i>M. E. Grand Scribe.</i>
" THOMAS R. PATTON,	-	<i>M. E. Grand Treasurer.</i>
" JOHN THOMSON,	-	<i>M. E. Grand Secretary.</i>

ANNUAL GRAND COMMUNICATION,

Held at Philadelphia, Dec. 28th, A. D. 1874, A. I. 2404.

Companion ANDREW ROBENO, JR., *Most Excellent Grand High Priest*, presiding.

After some preliminary business, so much of the minutes of the Quarterly Communication, held November 5th, 1874, as related to the election of officers, was read by the Grand Secretary, when the Most Excellent Grand High Priest delivered the following address, reviewing the labors of the past year, and which was received with gratification by the Companions :

COMPANIONS:

Ninety-seven Chapters and three Mark Lodges, in all one hundred, are the number of bodies in this jurisdiction, with a membership of ten thousand, over which the Grand Chapter exercises her authority. During the year very little has transpired to call for any special remarks. I have not been called upon for any decisions, and consequently have made none. Peaceful and harmonious are the influences pervading the entire jurisdiction, and with but one or two exceptions, the Chapters are in a strong, healthy and prosperous state.

Seven applications for new Chapters have been received, and all of them have been granted warrants. Each of these applications were signed by an unusually large number of active and influential Companions, whose names should be a sure and sufficient guarantee of their success.

On December 27th, 1873, I installed Companion John W. Redpath, High Priest of Abington Chapter, No. 245; and on the same evening conferred the Order of High Priesthood on Companion John A. Wright, of Lewistown Chapter, No 186.

January 26th, 1874, accompanied by the Grand King and Grand Scribe, and Grand Captain of the Host, visited Abington Chapter, No. 245, at Jenkintown, and witnessed the Mark Master's degree conferred by Companion Lewis Gussman, King, on eight candidates, and on the Most Excellent Master's

degree on the same candidates, by Companion John W. Redpath, High Priest of the Chapter. The work was remarkably well done, and evinced a zeal and proficiency highly creditable to the officers and the Chapter, it being their first attempt at working since constituted.

February 23d, I conferred the order of High Priesthood on Companion D. A. Wurtz, High Priest of Chapter No. 186, at Chambersburg. In accordance with a custom now generally recognized by the different Masonic Grand bodies, I appointed on March 16th, Samuel C. Batchelder, Grand Secretary of the Grand Chapter of Louisiana, and William H. Lambert, Grand King of the Grand Chapter of Virginia, and Isaac L. Johnson, Deputy Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia, as our Representatives, near their respective Grand bodies.

At the Quarterly Communication, held in May last, being desirous of exemplifying the work of the Chapter degrees, I was, through the courtesy of the various High Priests' meeting in this City, furnished with a number of qualified and approved candidates, and by the assistance of the Grand Officers, conferred the Most Excellent Master's degree on eight of the candidates in the open Grand Chapter, and in the presence of a large number of visiting Companions from the country.

May 11th, I installed the Worshipful Master of Columbia Mark Lodge, No. 91, and on the 13th, the High Priest and all the Officers of Bellefonte Chapter, No. 241, at Bellefonte.

May 23, issued my dispensation to the District Deputy Grand High Priest, Geter C. Shidle, to constitute Kittanning Chapter, No. 247, and instal their officers.

Having previously notified the High Priests of Danville, Sunbury, Northumberland, Catawissa and Bloomsburg Chapters that I would visit them jointly, on the evening of the 22d of June, at the Masonic Hall in Danville, for the purpose of making a Grand visitation, I accordingly, in company with the elective and appointed Grand Officers, fourteen in number, left Philadelphia, on the morning of that day, in a special car, provided for our accommodation, through the courtesy and kindness of Companion Charles E. Pugh, General Agent of the Pennsylvania Railroad, to whom we are under many obligations for this and similar favors, and arrived at our destination in due time, and was there met by a number of Companions and escorted to our Hotel, and in the evening, at seven o'clock, according to arrangements, made a Grand visitation to the different Chapters as above named, and was received

with every mark of respect and kindness, delivered a short address, after which I conferred the Most Excellent Master's degree on three candidates, and the Grand King, Companion Robert H. Pattison, exalted them to the Royal Arch.

The following day, June 23d, we proceeded to Watsontown, and at three and half o'clock, P. M., constituted Warrior Run Chapter, No. 246, and installed their officers. In the evening, at seven o'clock, made them a Grand visitation, delivered a short address, after which the Mark Master's degree was conferred on two candidates, by the Grand Scribe, Companion George E. Wagner.

June 24th, proceeded to Williamsport, where we arrived at an early hour, and was met and welcomed by District Deputy G. H. P., George S. Snyder, with a number of the Companions of that place, and escorted to our quarters at the Crawford House. After being entertained through the day with the kind hospitalities of the Companions, I at seven o'clock in the evening, paid a Grand visitation to Lycoming Chapter, No. 222, and was received by a large and enthusiastic assembly of Companions, some of them coming from the surrounding country, and from a great distance, as on previous occasions of this kind. I made a short address to the Chapter, which was listened to with marked attention and favor, after which I conferred the Most Excellent Master's degree on three candidates, and Companion King conferred the Royal Arch. This Chapter is in a very flourishing and most prosperous condition.

On the following day, June 29th, the Grand Officers returned home, satisfied that a judicious and proper interchange of visits to the subordinate Chapters, must result in good and good only.

In all of these visits the Grand Officers were received and treated in a most kind and fraternal manner, and welcomed by every mark and token of cordiality and respect.

June 30th I constituted Temple Chapter, No. 248, and installed their officers.

At the Quarterly Communication of the Grand Chapter in August last I exemplified the Mark Master's degree on three qualified and approved candidates, and, as on the preceding occasion, there was present a large and appreciative attendance of Companions.

August 25th I issued my dispensation to District Deputy Grand High Priest William Chatland to constitute Monongahela City Chapter, No. 249, and instal their officers.

October 26th, accompanied by the Grand King, Grand

Scribe, and Grand Principal Sojourner, visited Germantown Chapter, No. 208, and on the 19th of November, Siloam Chapter, No. 226, at Frankford, and witnessed the Mark and Royal Arch degrees conferred by their respective officers.

November 22d, I installed the High Priest and Officers of Jerusalem Chapter, No. 3.

December 19th, accompanied by Past Grand High Priest Daniel Thompson, P. G. H. P. Jeremiah L. Hutchinson, and Companions John J. Heisler, Hibbert P. John, Edward Masson, and Joseph S. George, I visited Fort Washington Chapter, No. 220. The Mark degree was conferred on three candidates by Hibbert P. Johns, the Most Excellent Master's degree by myself on four, and the Royal Arch degree on four by Companion Edward Masson. I am pleased to announce that this Chapter has received quite a number of valuable acquisitions to her membership during the year, and the members are now active and zealous in their labors to forward and promote its best interests. Great praise is due to Companion P. H. P. Joseph Rex for the energy and spirit he manifests in the welfare of this Chapter.

I have issued my dispensations to hold special elections in eight instances, to fill vacancies occasioned by death and other causes.

In addition to the above named, I have visited all of the Chapters and Mark Lodges meeting in this city with the exception of Kensington Chapter, No. 230, and Keystone, No. 175, but will embrace my first opportunity to do so.

The above, my Companions, is a brief epitome of some of my official acts during the year.

To the Grand Officers I am under special obligations for their ever willing and efficient aid rendered in the discharge and performance of these duties.

Perhaps no one of the present day has devoted more time or manifested and displayed so much intelligent zeal and devotion in exhuming the records of the buried past as regards Masonry, and given authentic data to disputed and heretofore obscure facts, than William James Hughan, our Grand Representative in England. His last work, "Masonic Memorials," a copy of which he presents to this Grand Chapter, clearly shows the Royal Arch Degree was worked prior to 1744, and was conferred upon Past Masters. A letter accompanied his book, bearing his congratulations and best wishes to this Grand Chapter for its continued prosperity. I have also received the

following letter from Companion Hughan, which will well repay an attentive perusal :

ENGLAND, Dec. 10th, 1874.

To the Most Excellent Grand High Priest of Pennsylvania :

DEAR MOST EXCELLENT COMPANION :

Allow me to join with the Companions of Pennsylvania in congratulating you on being again elected as the chief officer in the State for Capitular Freemasonry, and I hope this hurried letter of greeting will arrive in time to be read at your installation. It is pleasant thus, from across the "big pond," to wish you every success and prosperity throughout 1875 and forevermore.

The progress of Royal Arch Masonry in England throughout this year (now so shortly to fade away) has been continuous, but not demonstrative. The resignation of the Marquess of Ripon, K. G., as First Grand Principal has resulted in H. R. H., the Prince of Wales, K. G., being the Grand Z. (by virtue of being the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge, and a Royal Arch Mason). The *Second* and *Third* Grand Principals are the same as last year, viz., the Earl of Carnarvon, H., and Lord De Tabley, J. The Grand Scribe, E. (or Grand Secretary with you), is still our able and energetic Companion, John Hervey, who is also Grand Secretary, and long may he continue so.

The question as to the recognition of the Mark Grand Lodge of England is still a debated question, but we feel quite certain that as long as the "Articles of Union of 1813" are respected, the Degree, and, consequently, the Mark Grand Lodge, cannot be recognized by the Craft Grand Lodge. These "articles" will be found in our "Masonic Memorials," just published, a copy of which we have sent to our dear friend and Most Excellent Companion Meyer for presentation to the Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania. The "Ancient and Accepted Rite," and others of the "Hautes Grades," are in the same position, and as these all recognize the Mark Grand Lodge, we fail to see what more is wanted masonically from this country.

In our new work will also be found a reprint of Dr. Dassiguy's "Enquiry" of 1744, which contains the first typographical reference to Royal Arch Masonry known, and which is printed from one copy believed to be unique. The date is of importance, as it abundantly confirms the fact that the

degree was worked prior to 1744, and was conferred upon *Past Masters*.

My attention of late has been especially directed to our legends, and in the *Freemason* (England) for November 21st, 1874, I have given two remarkable quotations from works or manuscripts which prove that one of our Royal Arch legends was known in the fourteenth century (for it was then that Calistus Nicephorus flourished, who mentions the legend), and it is also to be found in print in the seventeenth century. Doubtless, Companion MacCalla will publish my communication in his valuable *Keystone*, as the matter is worthy of consideration, and as our researches are not yet ended, it is likely to be one of a series.

Believe me, Most Excellent Grand High Priest, that the prosperity of your Grand Chapter, and of the Grand Lodge, as also of *all* the Masonic bodies in the United States, is near to my heart, and to aid in any way to help forward the Craft is my special desire.

With hearty good wishes, fraternally yours,

WILLIAM JAMES HUGHAN,
Grand Representative.

Scarcely, however, my Companions, do we retrospect the labors of the year but what we are called upon to mourn the loss of some one or more of the laborers. To-night we can plead no exception. While year after year rolls into the ocean of eternity, and all its joys and sorrows, its hopes and fears, have passed away, each one of these revolving years, with their departing knell, but proclaims what our mournful experience must attest: That the history of mankind is death. This solemn and impressive truth vividly presents itself to our notice again to-night. Three of the oldest and most venerated Past Grand High Priests, Samuel H. Perkins, John C. Smith, John M. Read, who adorned and beautified the high and honorable positions they severally occupied in this Grand Body, and in other positions of public and private life, after traveling life's rugged path, and living beyond the allotted time of man on earth, have crossed the sullen stream of death and passed within the vail of heaven to the full enjoyment of life eternal.

Practising their virtues, and walking in their godly steps, we, too, may hope, through divine grace and mercy, for the same heavenly felicity. Let us then commence afresh and continue the labors of the year, with "*Holiness to the Lord*," as the object and aim of our pursuit.

"Wage to the end the glorious strife,
And win like them a crown of life."

All but Past High Priests having retired, Past Grand High Priest, Companion Chas. E. Meyer installed Companion ANDREW ROBENO, Jr., Most Excellent Grand High Priest of this Grand Chapter for the ensuing Masonic year.

Those who had retired were then re-admitted, when the Most Excellent Grand High Priest installed the other Grand Officers, as follows:—

Companions

GEORGE E. WAGNER, - - - *M. E. Grand Scribe.*

THOMAS R. PATTON, - - - - *M. E. Grand Treasurer.*

JOHN THOMSON, - - - - *M. E. Grand Secretary.*

After the ceremonies of installation, the Most Excellent Grand High Priest announced the following appointments:

Companions

DAVID B. TAYLOR, - No. 183, *Grand Captain of the Host.*

JOHN J. HEISLER, - - " 91, *Grand Principal Sojourner.*

WILLIAM H. BURKHARDT, " 52, *Grand R. A. Captain.*

EDWARD MATHEWS, - " 91, *Grand Master of 3d Vail.*

WILLIAM W. ALLEN, - " 248, *Grand Master of 2d Vail.*

HIBBERT P. JOHN, - " 169, *Grand Master of 1st Vail.*

EDWARD MASSON, - - " 232, *Grand Marshal.*

WILLIAM T. REYNOLDS, " 183, *S. G. Master of Ceremonies.*

ROBERT H. VAUGHN, - " 232, *F. G. Master of Ceremonies.*

WILLIAM C. HAMILTON, " 52, *Grand Pursuivant.*

HARRISON G. CLARK, - " 91, *Grand Tyler.*

GRAND CHAPLAINS.

Companions

REV. JOHN CHAMBERS, D. D.,
" JOSEPH CASTLE, D. D.,
" JAMES McGOWAN,
" ALEXANDER M. WIGGINS,
" J. D. HERR,
" EMANUEL OPPENHEIM,
" J. J. McILYAR,
" WILLIAM B. WOOD,
" GEORGE W. MACLAUGHLIN,
" DANIEL WASHBURN,
" THOMAS J. DAVIS,
" THOMAS A. FERNLEY,
" JOHN F. CROUCH.

COMMITTEE ON WORK.

Comp. GEORGE W. WOOD, Comp. DANIEL THOMPSON,
P. G. H. P. P. G. H. P.
" HARMAN BAUGH, " MICHAEL NISBET,
P. G. H. P. P. G. H. P.
Comp. JOSEPH S. GEORGE.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE.

Comp. CONRAD B. DAY, Comp. M. RICHARDS MUCKLÉ,
" DENNIS F. DEALY, " JOSEPH H. HEDGES,
Comp. A NELSON BATTEN.

COMMITTEE ON CORRESPONDENCE.

Comp. WILLIAM J. KELLY, Comp. GEORGE GRISCOM,
P. G. H. P.,
" CHARLES E. MEYER, " THOMAS JACOBS,
P. G. H. P.,
Comp. EDWIN G. MARTIN.

COMMITTEE ON BY-LAWS.

Comp. J. ALEXANDER SIMPSON, Comp. GEORGE J. BECKER,
" ROBERT B. SALTER, " SIDNEY R. MORRIS,
Comp. CHARLES D. FREEMAN.

COMMITTEE ON APPEALS.

Comp. MICHAEL NISBET,	Comp. LOUIS WAGNER,
P. G. H. P.,	
“ HENRY J. WHITE,	“ EDWARD R. WORRELL,
Comp. THOMAS S. WOODBURY.	

COMMITTEE ON CHARITY.

Comp. HENRY L. SINEXON,	Comp. ALFRED T. JONES,
“ WILLIAM T. TAYLOR,	“ JOHN W. LEE,
Comp. GEORGE W KENDRICK, JR.	

COMMITTEE ON PRINTING AND PUBLISHING.

Comp. JEREMIAH L. HUTCHINSON,	Comp. R. LLOYD LEE,
P. G. H. P.,	
“ JOHN L. YOUNG,	“ CHAS. C. DOUGLASS,
Comp. WILLIAM N. VIGUERS.	

DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND HIGH PRIESTS.

- 1.—Companion CHARLES M. HOWELL,
Of Lancaster, for the Counties of Lancaster, York and Perry.
- 2.—Companion NORRIS T. SMITH,
Of West Chester, for Counties of Chester and Delaware, except Chapter No. 19⁸,
at Phœnixville.
- 3.—Companion WILLIAM VANCE,
Of Carlisle, for Counties of Cumberland, Franklin and Adams.
- 4.—Companion JESSE ORR,
Of Reading, for Counties of Lebanon, Dauphin and Berks.
- 5.—Companion HENRY A. WILTBERGER,
Of Allentown, for Counties of Northampton, Lehigh and Carbon.
- 6.—Companion THADDEUS S. HILLIARD,
Of Wilkesbarre, for Counties of Luzerne, Pike and Monroe.
- 7.—Companion JOHN H. DUSENBURY,
Of Great Bend, for Counties of Susquehanna, Sullivan and Wayne.
- 8.—Companion WILLIAM A. PECK,
Of Towanda, for Counties of Bradford and Wyoming.
- 9.—Companion ROBERT C. SIMPSON,
Of Wellsboro', for Counties of Tioga, Potter and McKean.
- 10.—Companion CHRISTIAN F. KNAPP,
Of Bloomsburg, for Counties of Columbia, Montour, Union and Snyder.

11.—Companion GEORGE S. SNYDER,
Of Williamsport, for Counties of Lycoming, Clinton, Centre and Northumberland.

12.—Companion CHARLES R. EARLEY, M. D.,
Of Earley, for Counties of Elk and Cameron.

13.—Companion EDMUND H. TURNER,
Of Saxton, for Counties of Blair, Cambria, Huntingdon, Mifflin, Juniata, Bedford and Fulton.

14.—Companion WILLIAM CHATLAND,
Of Brownsville, for Counties of Washington, Fayette, Green and Somerset.

15.—Companion GETER C. SHIDLE,
Of Pittsburgh, for Counties of Allegheny, Westmoreland, Armstrong, Butler and Indiana.

16.—Companion MADISON M. MEREDITH,
Of Brookville, for Counties of Clearfield and Jefferson.

17.—Companion CHRISTIAN M. HOOVER,
Of Franklin, for Counties of Clarion, Venango and Warren.

18.—Companion FRANK H. FOSTER,
Of Meadville, for Counties of Mercer, Lawrence, Crawford and Erie.

19.—Companion SAMUEL BROWN, JR.,
Of Norristown, for Counties of Montgomery and Bucks, and Chapter No. 198 at Phoenixville.

20.—Companion George P. OWEN,
Of Tremont, for the County of Schuylkill.

Extract from the minutes,

JOHN THOMSON,
Grand Secretary.

Past Grand High Priest Companion Charles E. Meyer read the following memorial of P. G. H. P. Companion John C. Smith, which he had prepared at the request of the M. E. G. H. P.

M. E. GRAND HIGH PRIEST :

For the second time during your administration have you been called upon to announce the decease of one of your predecessors.

It was with regret that the Grand Chapter learned of the death of Past Grand High Priest John C. Smith.

At your request, Most Excellent sir, I have prepared a short sketch of the life of our late Companion :

John Conrad Smith was the son of John M. and Mary

Smith, and was born in Philadelphia, on August 11th, 1801. After receiving the customary education of that day, he learned the business of brush-making, which business he followed for over twenty years. After quitting this business he received an appointment in the U. S. Post Office, where he remained a number of years, retiring therefrom to become an officer in one of our District courts, which position he held for over eighteen years, and until a few years of his death. He also served several terms as a school director in the district in which he resided.

He was married on December 4th, 1823, to Mary Griffin, who survives him. Their married life was a most happy one, but was not blessed with any children.

His Masonic life was a peculiar one, with an ardent love for Freemasonry, he early sought its light; his advancement was rapid from degree to degree and from office to office, until he finally filled the chair now occupied by you, Most Excellent sir.

His petition for initiation and membership was presented to Concordia Lodge, No. 67, on May 13th, 1825, at which time he was 24 years old. Of those who served on his committee, none are now living.

He was initiated June 10th, 1825, crafted July 8th, and raised to the Sublime degree of a Master Mason, on August 13th, following.

In a little over three years' membership, he was elected Junior Warden on December 12th, 1828, Senior Warden the succeeding year, and served as Worshipful Master during 1831, during the darkest days of the anti-Masonic excitement. During these days his interest was never found wanting, always at his post he fulfilled the duties fearlessly.

It was nearly twenty-one years from the time he was brought to Masonic light before he advanced to the Royal Arch.

He probably received the honorary degree of a Mark Master Mason in Columbia Mark Lodge, No. 91, the only Mark Lodge at that time in existence.

On January 26th, 1846, he petitioned Jerusalem Chapter, No. 3, for the Most Excellent and Royal Arch degrees. He was then aged 44 years. He was approved and received and accepted a Most Excellent Master on February 23, 1846, and exalted to the Supreme degree of Royal Arch Masonry at an adjourned meeting, held February 26th, 1846.

Here his advancement was as rapid as in the Blue Lodge. On December 28th, 1846, he was appointed Captain of the

Host. On November 22, 1847, he was elected Scribe; December 25th, 1848, elected King, and December 24th, 1849, he was elected High Priest, not quite four years from the time he was exalted. Of those whom he appointed to offices at that time, none are now living.

He was installed as High Priest, and received the order of High Priesthood in the Grand Chapter, in the month of January following, Companion D. C. Skerrett being Grand High Priest at that time.

In 1852 he was appointed by Companion E. P. Lescure, at that time Most Excellent Grand High Priest, as Grand Captain of the host, and held that office for two years.

He was elected Most Excellent Grand King in 1855, and served two years.

He never served as Grand Scribe—during 1854 the Grand Chapter was without that officer—the Companion elected refusing to serve.

In 1856 he was elected Most Excellent Grand High Priest, and performed the duties of that office for one year, when he retired from office.

No particular act during his administration marked it as one to be remembered. He was slow in his decisions, but when once made, was firm as rock, and could not be shaken, and being of a nervous temperament, he was easily disconcerted. In the management of the one great question of his administration—the misunderstanding of the true work of the Mark Degree, in which our Pittsburgh Companions were interested—he was fair and impartial, and what seemed at one time to have been serious, became of great benefit to the Grand Chapter, and maintained its authority unimpaired.

His quiet manner and retiring habit, added to a positive disposition, rendered him ill at ease in the place of honor to which he was called by the suffrages of his Brethren and Companions.

It cannot be said of him that he was a good ritualist; very seldom do we find him doing the work of the presiding officer, but he was always willing to assist, to the utmost of his power, in the minor offices.

Strong in his likes and dislikes, he was a firm friend and an earnest opponent.

His Masonic working days were over before many who are now members of this Grand Chapter were brought to Masonic light.

He was always attentive to his Masonic duties, and very seldom do we find him absent from the meetings.

The life of our deceased Companion was one in which there was no noted acts achieved; it was not marked by any great brilliancy.

He was a kind husband, a good citizen, and, as far as human knowledge goes, an honest man. Humbly born, he humbly walked through life's allotted time, and humbly died. Full of years, with old age weighing heavily upon him, after a long struggle, he died, as he had lived, at peace with all mankind and with his God.

On October 28, 1874, at seven o'clock A. M., aged 73 years, 2 months and 17 days, he passed from earth. He was buried at Monument Cemetery on Saturday, October 31st, 1874, his remains being followed to the grave by a large number of his Brethren and Companions.

The following resolution is respectfully submitted for the consideration of the Grand Chapter:

Resolved, That the Most Excellent Grand High Priest tender to the widow of Past Grand High Priest Companion John C. Smith the sympathies of the Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania in her great loss, and express to her the fraternal feeling and respect that the Grand Chapter have for the memory of her deceased husband.

The Committee on Correspondence made a report, which was ordered to be printed with Annual Proceedings.

The Grand Chapter closed in peace.

JOHN THOMSON,

Grand Secretary.

APPENDIX.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania:

The Committee of Foreign Correspondence beg leave to present their annual report of the proceedings of the Grand Chapters of the United States and Canada, and Grand Mark Lodge of England and Wales, and find the subjects treated of to consist largely of "striking from the rolls" for the non-payment of dues—with opinions differing as widely as day from night with regard to the propriety of it, without any one making particular headway. Each reporter files into line, gives his experience, his argument, and his conviction, and there the subject seems to rest—no conversions, no difference from the old way, it seems to travel its rounds with the regularity of the sun, and each keeps as true to his position as that luminary (Horner might say, with very many clouds in some of us), but we make no progress, and the end finds us where we were at the beginning. We know that in the preparation of these reports we have gone farther into the merits or demerits of the cases under consideration than our predecessors as regards the polity of our own Grand Chapter, and in criticism of those Grand Chapters with which we are in correspondence. And while the reasons given for the reticence practiced in the past have been good, we have a conviction that our course is right at *this time*, and while we shall be careful to write of our Companions courteously, we shall also be careful to write plainly, believing this to be the only course proper for such an important duty with which we are honored. We approach the task of preparing this report with hesitancy, knowing that every moment of its preparation must

be taken from the time usually devoted to rest, and in consequence disagreeably impressing us with a feeling that we fail in fairly representing our Grand Chapter. We also hope this and the next report (should we live to prepare it) may be the last we will be called on to write; not but that we like the task in some aspects of the case, but to us who are employed every moment of our time in the management of a large and important business, the work is too severe. And we would take this method of notifying your successor that we are not in the field for honors. We deprecate also the changing of reporters; we think the proper way is to select some Companion with the ability necessary to prepare the reports, the time to spare to devote to it, and the disposition to feel honored by the privilege, and then hold on to him, hoping that he won't resign and may never die. Get such a man, and we should be envied indeed.

We have received the proceedings of the following Grand Chapters:

ALABAMA,	-	-	1873	MISSISSIPPI,	-	-	1874
ARKANSAS,	-	-	1873	NEW HAMPSHIRE,	-	-	1873
CALIFORNIA,	-		1874	NEW JERSEY	-	-	1874
CANADA,	-	-	1873	NOVA SCOTIA,		1872, 1873	
CONNECTICUT,	-	-	1874	NEW YORK,	-	-	1874
DELAWARE,	-	-	1874	OHIO,	-	-	1873
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,			1873	OREGON,	-	-	1873
GEORGIA,	-	-	1874	OREGON,	-	-	1874
ILLINOIS,	-	-	1873	SOUTH CAROLINA,	-	-	1874
INDIANA,	-	-	1873	TENNESSEE,	-	-	1873
IOWA,	-	-	1873	VIRGINIA,	-	-	1873
KENTUCKY,	-	-	1873	VERMONT,	-	-	1873
KANSAS,	-	-	1873	WEST VIRGINIA,	-	-	1872
LOUISIANA,	-	-	1874	WEST VIRGINIA,	-	-	1873
MAINE,	-	-	1874	WISCONSIN,	-	-	1874
MARYLAND,	-	-	1873	GRAND MARK LODGE	1872		
MISSOURI,	-	-	1873	OF ENGLAND.	1873		
MINNESOTA,	-	-	1873		1874		

ALABAMA.

The Forty-seventh Annual Convocation was held in the city of Montgomery December 2, 1873. The Most Excellent Grand High Priest, Companion Myles J. Greene, delivered a very interesting and eloquent address, from which we quote, in reference to the New Masonic Temple at Montgomery :

“ Another year has sped its rapid flight since last we met to take counsel together, and legislate for the good of our order. A year, burdened alike with pains and pleasures, hopes and fears, joys and sorrows, triumphs and defeats. Yet, amid all life’s vicissitudes, we are constrained to acknowledge that ‘goodness and mercy have followed us,’ and that peace and a reasonable prosperity has been our goodly heritage.

“ While some localities in our jurisdiction have been visited by the ‘pestilence that walketh in darkness, and the destruction that wasteth at noonday,’ and ever and anon the solemn death-roll has sounded, summoning some loved Companion from terrestrial labor to a celestial rest, yet a kind Providence has spared our lives, and, in the main, the priceless boon of health has been vouchsafed us by Him who holds the destinies of the universe in the hollow of His hand.

“ The erection of this splendid Temple should and does mark an era in the history of Freemasonry in Alabama. And I trust the truly Masonic enterprise and liberality here displayed may incite our Companions of Subordinate Chapters to increased energy and zeal in providing for themselves suitable and comfortable, if not elegant, halls. But while we duly appreciate these blessings, let us not lose sight of the important truth that the real greatness of Masonry does not consist in her grand Temples, though their splendor may dazzle the eyes of every beholder, nor in the display of costly and elegant paraphernalia, necessary and right as these in themselves are. Be it ever remembered that that which entitles Freemasonry to the respect and consideration of the wise and good of all lands and all ages, is to be found in the exemplification of her high and ennobling virtues and in the lives of her votaries.

“ This is the humble yet mighty foundation stone upon which is erected that great edifice, before whose moral grandeur the most brilliant triumphs of architectural genius ‘pale their ineffectual fires.’

“ While, then, we give due attention to the external adorn-

ing of the body of Masonry, let us yet more sedulously cultivate those 'internal qualifications' which alone will fit us to be living stones in our Mystic Temple. Let us kindle anew in our hearts the fires of devotion to the eternal and immutable tenets of our Order."

Companion P. J. Pillans presented a very good report on Foreign Correspondence, which he introduces with an apology for shortcomings, on account of the short time he had to prepare it, because of absence from home. We have failed to find any imperfections, therefore the apology is void. In his review of Georgia he thus speaks to them words of wisdom :

"But we may be allowed to differ with him in regard to the value of correspondence committees. Indeed, those proceedings which have no such report are to a great extent insipid and uninstructive, and we think that evidences are not wanting to show that where the knowledge of the doings of our Companions of other jurisdictions is most thorough and extensive, there also are to be found most Masonic harmony and zeal. Had Companion Blackshear been allowed to lay before the Companions of Georgia his able and interesting reports, doubtless, an exhausted treasury and expiring altar fires would not now have been the wailing cry of our neighbors."

In his notice of New Jersey he says :

"This Grand Chapter amended its constitution so as to allow any Chapter to strike from the rolls, 'by a two-thirds vote of the Chapter any member who shall be in arrears for dues for twelve months,' and after payment of the dues to restore to membership by the same vote. We, however, think it exceedingly questionable if one can be deprived of his Masonic standing without due trial and conviction, and we much prefer the Maryland rule, which requires one month's notice that the Chapter will 'consider such delinquency.'"

We find the subject of striking from the roll for non-payment of dues, suspension for non-payment of dues, &c., one of the leading items of discussion in the reports we have upon our table, but as we propose hereafter to look into the subject, we here simply call attention to the above quotation.

Pennsylvania receives fraternal notice at the hands of Companion Pillans, and he quotes the very interesting letter of

Companion Hughan to Past Grand High Priest Charles E. Meyer of October 1st, 1872. He says in conclusion:

"The committee has thus completed its labors in reviewing the proceedings which have come to hand, and now bring the work up for your inspection, hoping that you may find something that will interest and much that will improve. Everywhere we see the Craft harmonious—everywhere zealous and progressive—and if we may judge from the addresses of the Most Excellent Grand High Priest, everywhere impressing upon the members the beauty of Godliness and the necessity of 'Holiness to the Lord.' Many have fallen by the wayside, and praises have been chanted to their memory, but the Craft grows in numbers, and, we sincerely hope, in the beauty of devotion."

Most Excellent Companion Myles J. Greene, Loachapoka, re-elected Grand High Priest; Most Excellent Companion Daniel Sayre, Montgomery, Grand Secretary.

ARKANSAS.

The Twenty-fourth Annual Convocation was held in the city of Little Rock, October 9, 1873. Most Excellent Grand High Priest Companion George A. Dannelly delivered an address from which we quote:

"Companions, as was the custom of our ancient brethren to resort to the first Temple once a year, to bear some part in that worship that is ever due from the creature to the Creator, and implore His aid in all their laudable undertakings, we are convened for the purpose of deliberating upon and devising means for the best interests of our beloved Arch, and acquaint ourselves more perfectly with the ritual of Masonry, believing, as we do, that Masonry is a handmaid to that religion that buoys us up amid the conflicts of the present life, offers us a staff upon which we can lean in a dying hour, and promises a jewel through the annals of eternity—eternity, that has no morn, that knows no night, but is an eternal noon, as much impossible to be measured as to find the cradle and the tomb of Deity.

"Masonry not only looks back to the time when darkness brooded over the waters, and God said, 'Let there be light, and there was light,' but looks forward, beyond the grave, through the boundless realms of eternity, to a period when the

Lion of the tribe of Judah, who, by one omnific fiat, caused this fair fabric of the universe to spring into existence, who spake and it was done, commanded and it stood fast, shall, by His omnific power, raise the sheeted dead to a life of immortality. A thought wholesome and full of comfort. This is the general sentiment of mankind, especially of Masons. But few are found to doubt it. Notwithstanding the absence of a written revelation in many parts of the earth, and the consequent moral darkness which shrouds the nations, still that great truth, revealed by God in the Garden of Paradise nearly sixty centuries ago, that man was to inherit immortality, has not been entirely lost nor forgotten, but being invested with immortality, it has lived on in glorious remembrance; rising superior to Eden's wreck and ruin, it still burns in human hearts and kindles an undying glory in every human hope. Taught as it is by Masonry, it has wandered on through every tribe and nation, kindred and people, until its testimony is found in every land and under every sky, from the dwarfed Greenlander to the giant-grown Patagonian—from the dweller in oriental climes to him whose home is at the setting sun. Everywhere man reaches forth his arms to embrace a future, everywhere and in everything man strives to read his future and his rest. The sun-tanned children of the woods, as they wander among the wild scenery of their mountains, rehearse it in their legends of distant smiling seas and islands of green. The polished and erudite Greek proclaims it in his classic stories of Hesperion gardens and Elysian fields of purity and flowers. But above all, the Royal Arch Mason glories in it as he sees the vail of the Sacred Tabernacle drawn aside by the hand that spans eternal ages, and as he listens to the song of the celestial harpers, as it rises and swells, like a tiara of glory, beneath the bending arches of immortality.

“Companions, this glorious hope of an endless life enables us to persevere in our work of faith and labor of love, that of rebuilding the Temple, and being qualified in every way to form a part of that Temple not made with hands, eternal in the Heavens. But for the glorious hope and the precious promise of a re-union around the grand altar of the Temple of Light, where the Supreme Grand High Priest of the universe forever reigns, forever presides, we would look upon the grave as a dark, dark dungeon, and death as an eternal sleep. But our beloved Masonry teaches us that those whom we now mourn as dead shall be raised and stand as living witnesses of the power of the resurrection.”

Again he says :

" Many questions have been asked, which I have not thought it necessary to report, as they were answered simply by reference to decisions heretofore made. There is one, however which I think of importance, and upon which I hope this Grand Chapter will express a very decided opinion, and that is: Is it proper to confer the Chapter degrees upon a candidate who does not believe in the immortality of the soul ?

" My decision was that no one who does not believe in the immortality of the soul ought to be admitted to the Holy Royal Arch. It is important that you clearly and explicitly decide this question, because it is well known that in some sections of our Jurisdiction associations have been formed—congregations they are called—upon the principle openly avowed and taught, that man has no soul in this life, but that souls will be given to some at the resurrection ; and I regret to say some Masons have become members of these associations, and afterwards applied for the Chapter Degrees."

We believe in the above decision and think it would be much better were a positive rule adopted and rigidly enforced throughout all the branches of Freemasonry to exclude all those high strung sensationalists from taking part or lot with us. While we utterly condemn those weak but well meaning Brethren, who in their zeal for Freemasonry boast that it is the peer of religion, or good enough religion for them, or the hundred other foolish ideas frequently expressed by them in what they think an honor to the craft, but which only serves to illustrate their shallowness and give our enemies an opportunity to unfavorably criticise the influence of Freemasonry, still, we are equally strong in the conviction that when a man gets so far off his balance as to deny the immortality of the soul, setting up a doctrine which would certainly bring great destruction upon society and ruin to many households, taking away the grand beneficent incentive that we look to for a future beyond this world ; we do not think that such a man can be trusted and we should be very careful to exclude him from our association.

We clip the following :

"On the 29th and 30th I visited Washington Chapter, No. 23,

which I found almost dead and inactive. The M. E. High Priest, after using all his energies, succeeded in getting a quorum, and opened the Chapter; but, after calling to refreshment, he could not get them together any more, and I had to leave that Chapter without closing, and in all probability it is still in that condition, for the High Priest informed me that it was seldom he could get a quorum to transact any business, that the Companions, with some exceptions, seemed to have lost all interest in capitular Masonry."

The Grand Lecturer does not say what kind of refreshments were furnished or the inducement held out to the Companions to make up that quorum. If the refreshments were too strong probably they were not able to come back, or if the promise was held out for a supper if they would be present at the opening, they may have thought they earned their wages and did not want to work over time, but in either case we think the best thing to do is to close their Chapter and keep it closed for 999 years.

Also the following :

"On the 19th and 20th I visited Atlanta Chapter, No. 33, and after spending two days and using my best efforts, failed to get a quorum. I learn from the High Priest and others that they have had no Convocations for, perhaps, twelve months or more, and many of the most zealous Companions have become discouraged and have ceased to attend."

We can sympathize with the above, and would suggest that if the Grand High Priest would make them a Grand visitation with all the Grand Officers and exemplify the work, you would find many who would come out of curiosity, won to an active interest that would give an impetus for years to come. We have seen it tried with first rate results.

The Grand Lecturer's (Companion John W. Jordan), report shows him to have been a diligent and faithful officer and deserves great credit for his labor.

The following from the report "on Committee on Charters and Dispensations" will, we opine, show why the trouble was caused as above :

· "Your Committee on Charters and Dispensations beg leave to present the following partial report :

"We have examined the minutes and work of La Crosse Chapter, U. D., of La Crosse, Izard County, and Springtown Chapter, U. D., at Springtown, Benton County.

"In the former we find the work good and the minutes well kept, though wanting in Masonic form, in some respects.

"The minutes do not show that they had any guard at their Convocations, nor do they show that the lectures pertaining to the several degrees were ever given. We recommend that a charter be granted them.

"In the latter we find work good, and minutes tolerably kept. It seems from the minutes that they conferred all the degrees without any Principal Sojourner, or any one acting in that station. We recommend that they have a charter."

We are under the impression from the above report that our Companions of that jurisdiction are *manufacturing* Chapters, who in turn *manufacture* R. A. Masons, who in turn care very little for the machinery that was used in elevating them.

We would much rather the Chapters named should have been kept under dispensation until they could have come in with a clean sheet than as they were admitted. The report was adopted.

Companion SAMUEL W. WILLIAMS, *Grand High Priest.*

Companion L. E. BARBER, *Grand Secretary.*

CALIFORNIA.

The Twentieth Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter of the State of California, was held in the City of San Francisco, April 14th, 1874.

The Most Excellent Grand High Priest, William A. Davis, delivered an address of local interest, in which we find the following which doubtless will apply more or less to other jurisdictions.

"I take this opportunity to call the attention of the Grand Chapter to a much neglected duty. I allude to the imparting to the membership of each Chapter of the information delegated in trust to you, their representatives. The unwritten part you are expected to take every opportunity to communicate, that none may plead ignorance thereof. The portion, however, to which I particularly refer at this time is entrusted to your care for dissemination, in the form of our published proceedings; a

little volume containing information of positive value to the Craft ; an index of the progress of Royal Arch Masonry, which every companion, member of a Chapter, is entitled to. I trust that during the present session some rule may be adopted which will govern the actions of Chapters in the future ; that the four copies forwarded *in trust* to the officers of each, as custodians and disseminators, shall be regarded less as the private property of the individual. Excuse the reflection, Companions, my only apology is my earnest belief in and attachment to the principles of compulsory education, especially when applied to Masonic matters."

The following which was adopted is taken from the report on jurisprudence :

"Your Committee on Jurisprudence, to whom was referred the question presented at our last Annual Convocation, by Companion Charles Louis Wiggin, viz.: 'does the restoration of a member of a Lodge, after suspension, restore him in the Chapter?' having carefully considered the same, beg leave to submit the following report :

"Our laws delegate to the Lodge the power to deprive any Companion of his rights as a Royal Arch Mason ; and this being an established fact, your committee are of the opinion that the converse of the proposition should be accepted. If we allow the Lodge to suspend a Companion we should certainly permit it to restore him again when the cause of his suspension has been removed."

We therefor submit the following Resolution, and recommend its adoption :

"*Resolved*, That the restoration to good standing by a Lodge of any Companion who has been suspended by it for any cause, and where no action has been had in his case directly by the Chapter, restores him to good standing in the Chapter."

The question of suspension in our judgment, is expulsion, and (although limited), is broad, deep, disgraceful. A Chapter cannot suspend without cause, and such cause is dishonorable to the Companion who may be guilty.

Now the fundamental law of Freemasonry affecting the suspension or expulsion from a lower degree deprives the offender of *all* the privileges of Masonry. This is right, but when the suspended one atones to the body from which he was suspended, he must pass the ordeal of a ballot (with us) and

if elected by a unanimous vote, he is again a member of that Lodge. We cannot see how by any manner of reasoning you can make him a member of the Chapter from which he is also suspended without the same forms being passed through. We say that a member of a Blue Lodge suspended or expelled, "is *ipso facto*" suspended or expelled from his Chapter, &c.; that is, he is as decidedly suspended from his Chapter as from his Lodge, for the offence to his Lodge is equally an offence to his Chapter. Now, if he has actually lost membership in his Chapter, we hold that he should pass the ordeal of a ballot in each body that he is so suspended. On the principle that a Mason has no right to do anything that would subject him to such a sentence; if he did do so, he should understand that we are not satisfied with anything but a thorough purification before he can attain the position from which he was suspended.

The same Committee report a Resolution, recognizing the Grand Chapter of Nova Scotia. Also the following, which is in strange but creditable contrast to the action of Kansas, regarding the Jurisdiction of West Virginia:

"That the new Grand Body was established with the full consent of the Mother Grand Chapter of Virginia and with her heartiest wishes for its success and prosperity. This being the case, it only remains for us to gladly extend to our new sister the right hand of fellowship, and acknowledge her as an independent organization. We therefore submit the following Resolution, and recommend its adoption:

"Resolution, That the Grand Chapter of the State of California cheerfully recognizes the Grand Chapter of West Virginia as an independent Grand Chapter, and confidently trusts that she will become a bright and shining light in the constellation of American Masonic Grand Bodies."

The Resolution was adopted.

The Committee on Uniformity of the Work reported:

"That in the consideration of the subject they have arrived at the conclusion that the work as adopted by this Grand Chapter in 1855, and since practiced by a great majority of the Chapters of this jurisdiction, is in all essentials consonant with the traditions and history of Royal Arch Masonry in the

United States, and that a reasonably well skilled Royal Arch Mason of this jurisdiction can make himself known in any Chapter working under the so called American or English Rite. It is true that there are some minor differences which obtain in the several jurisdictions of the country, but they are not of sufficient importance to disturb the universality of the Royal Craft throughout our country, as is illustrated by the regularly occurring Triennial Convocation of the General Grand Chapter since 1798. At the last Triennial Convocation in 1871, nearly every Grand Chapter in the United States was represented, and recognized as exponents of the American system of Royal Arch Masonry."

"Therefore your Committee respectfully recommend that the work and lectures heretofore taught in this jurisdiction as adopted by this Grand Body in 1855 be continued, and that each Chapter be required to conform thereto; and to insure a strict compliance with this order, we recommend the adoption of the following resolution:

"Resolved, That from and after the first day of December, A. D. 1874, A. I. 2404, no High Priest of a Chapter under this jurisdiction shall be installed, unless he shall present to the installing officer a certificate from the Grand Lecturer, or some Companion known by the Grand Lecturer to be skilled in the work, that he is 'qualified to properly confer all the Chapter degrees and deliver the lectures thereunto appertaining,' and the installing officer shall forward such certificate to the Grand Secretary."

The above is given, first, to show our Companion reporters that California, like ourselves, believes the old work is good enough to keep, and second, to call attention of our Grand Chapter to adopt the spirit of the resolution which is appended, and which, we think, is right (except with us say Deputy Grand High Priest instead of Grand Lecturer).

The report on correspondence is again by Companion Chas. Louis Wiggin, and in his usual racy style. From his review of Arkansas we clip the following and endorse it:

"A man who does not believe in the immortality of the soul can have no moral balance or responsibility; he must regard himself as simply an educated animal, with no object to attain, no aim in view except to satisfy his animal wants and indulge his animal propensities. Can such a man understand or appreciate the beautiful lessons taught to those who pass the vails

of the Tabernacle? Assuredly not; and no such man should ever, with our consent, approach the sacred altar of Masonry, much less should he sit beneath the shadow of the Royal Arch."

From his review of Illinois we take the following:

"We are in fault in this, that, while we teach in our Lodge-rooms the importance of temperance, in many instances we place temptation in the way of those we have attempted to instruct. Let those who, by the suffrages of their brethren, have been set apart as leaders and teachers in Masonry, in their own persons set the example of that temperance and sobriety they so solemnly enjoin upon others. Let the source and foundation of all the trouble be banished from our Lodge-rooms, our Chapter Halls, and from the asylums of our Commanderies. When at night these bodies have completed their labors, let the officers and members seek their homes, and avoid, as they would a pestilence, the saloons and drinking houses, and the effect of such a course will soon be made manifest in the improved moral *status* of the Craft and its influence will not be unfelt upon society at large."

From his review of Minnesota we take the following:

"We dissent from Companion Pierson on this subject. A similar law has been upon our statute book for twenty years, has worked admirably, is by no means a dead letter, and no attempt has ever been made to repeal it. We hold that 'it is the duty of every Mason to be a member of some Lodge,' that he may discharge his share of the duties and bear his portion of the burdens which Masonry entails upon all her votaries. A non-affiliate is a drone in the hive; he expects to enjoy all the benefits of the Masonic connection without rendering any equivalent, and if permitted to remain in the Chapter, he shirks his duty by hiding beneath the shadows of the Royal Arch, and says to the honest working Mason in the Lodge: 'Come not near me, for I am holier than thou.' Then if sickness or misfortune overtakes him, he is swift enough to claim the aid and sympathy of his brethren of the Lodge, to which he has made no contribution, and from which he cannot reasonably demand assistance. We have no patience with non-affiliated Masons, or with those who advocate their cause; but Companion Pierson having classed us correctly—among the "old fogies"—this may be one of our old fogy notions. In conclusion Companion Pierson recapitulates the services he has rendered to Royal Arch Masonry in Minnesota, and inti-

mates that some injustice has been done him, in fact charges squarely that he has been removed from his position as chairman of the Committee on Correspondence by the operations of a "ring." We regret exceedingly that such a conclusion should have been published to the world, for such utterances as the following do not evidence that harmony and good fellowship which have greeted us in the proceedings from every other quarter."

Pennsylvania receives fraternal notice at his hands ; his conclusion we give entire in the hope it may be read by the Companions of this Grand Chapter, and help awaken in them the interest in reading these reports which their importance demands :

"Once more we have finished our pleasant task, and for another twelvemonth take a reluctant leave of our genial companions of the reportorial corps. The hours we have passed in figurative intercourse with them have indeed been pleasant ones, albeit they were filched from the time usually devoted to the embraces of Morpheus. The kindly words of encouragement and commendation which have greeted our former efforts have strengthened and stimulated us in our work, and often with weary hand and heavy eyelids, we have toiled on, sustained by the consciousness of the approval and appreciation of our companions until the smiles of Aurora illuminated our *sanctum* and warned us to seek refreshment in brief repose before commencing the active duties of the day. In the reports which have come before us for review, we have found much that was instructive as well as pleasing, and we have often wished that every Royal Arch Mason might enjoy the privilege accorded to us, of perusing at length the views and opinions of the bright and shining lights of the Order. We can give them at best but a brief synopsis of the proceedings of other jurisdictions, and comparatively few obtain access, even to our meager reports. We have endeavored to select from the transactions of our sister Grand Chapters, those portions which in our judgment would prove most interesting and instructive to the general reader ; and if our companions will but read our published proceedings carefully and intelligently, they will acquire much valuable information, which they can obtain in no other way so readily.

"We congratulate our companions upon the general prosperity of the Craft upon this continent. Peace, harmony, and good will reign supreme, and an evident determination is mani-

fested in all the Grand Jurisdictions to employ none but sound material in the erection of the temple, and to plant the Royal Arch banner so high, that he who would reach it must free himself from the weight of vice and immorality, and strive to attain that moral perfection indicated by the teachings of the Order. To our brother reporters who have treated us with so much kindness and consideration, we can only say that our hearts warm towards you with brotherly love and affection, and we sincerely trust that our future intercourse may be attended with that courtesy, forbearance, and good will, which has characterized it in the past."

Companion M. E. Wm. A. JANNAVY, (elected) *Grand High Priest.*

Companion CHARLES LOUIS WIGGIN, (re-elected) *Grand Secretary.*

CANADA.

The Sixteenth Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter of Canada, was held in the City of Kingston, August 13th, 1873. Most Excellent Companion S. B. Harman, Grand Zerubbable, presiding. A number of members from Lafayette Chapter, No. 5, Washington, D. C., paid them a fraternal visit, were well received and seemed satisfied.

The following shows good sound sense:

"Specific regulation as to the qualifications for the office of First and Second Principals laid down in the Constitution on 'Subordinate Chapters, article 6,' as follows:

"No Companion shall be eligible for the First Principal's Chair, unless he be an installed Master or Past Master of a regular Lodge, nor until he has served in the Second Principal's Chair for twelve months, nor to the Second until he has served in the Third Principal's Chair for twelve months, unless by special dispensation from the Grand First Principal.

"The dispensing power or authority herein vested in the Grand First Principal to allow a deviation from the express letter of the Constitution as above laid down, I feel bound, as I know my predecessors have done, to regard, in view of the solemnity attending the induction into office of the G. Z., as one to be only exercised in extreme cases, and on good and sufficient cause, being shown of an absolute and indispensable necessity. During the past year applications were received from the large proportion of nearly one-fourth of the Chapters

upon our roll for dispensations for the installation of First or Second Principals not thus constitutionally eligible, and for the most part by simple request, almost as if it were matter of course, without any cause assigned, or cause, if it can be so called, of the most general character. I am happy to add that I believe in all these numerous cases the applicants were satisfied that in the rigid requirement of good and sufficient cause I felt bound to insist upon before granting, and in the absence of which I had to refuse the application, I was laying down a wholesome rule with regard to a prerogative, which should be neither lightly evoked or lightly granted, and more especially, and on this I particularly desire to dwell, in the case of propositions to dispense with the requirement that the First Principal should be an Installed Master or Past Master of a Craft Lodge, a wise regulation I deem almost insurmountable, and to dispense with which involves the anomaly of placing a Companion in a position to 'perfect a degree' he is not able to confer.

"The second matter of constitutional reference relates to the article on 'Honorary Members,' as follows :

"I. Chapters may elect any Companion an Honorary Member by an open vote of the Chapter. Due notice must be given at one Convocation, and the name be inserted in the summons for the next regular Convocation. The Chapter must include all Honorary Members, in its returns to the Grand Chapter, and pay similar dues for them as for ordinary members.

"II. Honorary membership does not confer the right of voting, except it is so declared at the time of election, and then it can be conferred only on those who were ordinary members when so elected.

"III. Should such Honorary Member, as at the time of their election were ordinary members, accept office in the Chapter, their honorary membership ceases. Honorary Members, who were not ordinary members, cannot hold office in the Chapter."

"The case in question applied to two Companions who have not only presided with distinction in private Chapters, but have filled the second highest chair, that of G. H. in Grand Chapter, and who, on the second meeting of Montreal Chapter, No. 42, (one of these distinguished Companions having organized the Chapter and installed the officers, in the preceding month, as Grand Superintendent of the District) were proposed as honorary members, and on the third meeting unanimously elected as such, with full privileges of ordinary members. At the close of the year it was desired to elect one of these Com-

panions to fill the Chair of First Principal, and it was referred to me to rule on their eligibility, and, if ineligible, the steps they should take to become eligible. As to the first point there could be no question, as Honorary Members, who had never been ordinary members, they were ineligible, and the resolution investing them with the full privileges of ordinary members, was *ultra vires* and inoperative. As to the second, the only apparent way of getting rid of their ineligibility, would be the resignation of their honorary membership and re-entry into the Chapter as ordinary members, by proposal, ballot, and the regular formalities connected therewith. I name this case, not that there is any Masonic ruling of consequence in connection therewith, but rather by way of suggestion as to the somewhat doubtful compliment of electing Companions, and especially local Companions, Honorary Members, who had not first been ordinary members, and who are therefore ineligible to accept office, and make the talents which marked them out for honor available, if subsequently desired for the advancement of the Chapter."

Members of a Chapter should feel and take an interest in their Chapters, to do which requires the highest privilege of full membership. The interest of the Chapter requires they should all have that power. The honor of the Companion demands he should possess it; then let the Chapter require and the Companion comply to that necessity, and we shall have no honorary members, no dead wood and no figure head Royal Arch Masons.

We also clip the following :

" In the month of March I was in receipt of a courteous intimation from the Grand Chapter of Nova Scotia, of their desire to appoint as their Representative in Canada, Most Excellent Companion T. Douglas Harington 33°. our esteemed Past Grand Zerubbable, and offering the name of Excellent Companion Arthur Fletcher, 32°, to be your representative in Nova Scotia. Companion Fletcher was formerly a resident of Quebec, Past Zerubbable of Carnarvon Chapter, Montreal and of the local Chapter since his removal to Halifax. Pursuant to the provision of the Constitution 'on Grand Officers, Article 3,' I felt pleasure in at once announcing in your name, that the appointment of Most Excellent Companion Harington would be enrolled with honor, and in desiring that the

usual credentials be issued to Excellent Companion Fletcher, from whom I have received letters of cordial acknowledgment, announcing his warm reception at the recent Convocation of the Grand Chapter of Nova Scotia, and 'that he was desired to communicate how welcome and how warmly reciprocated were the expressions of good feeling' with which I charged our G. S. E. to accompany his credentials."

Wherein he speaks of T. Douglas Harrington as 330, and Arthur Fletcher as 320—to be &c., we do not understand him. We are willing to concede our ignorance as Royal Arch Masons in this quarter of the world to those hieroglyphics, if they are part of the work in your Grand Chapters we should like to be posted that we may help enlighten others; if they are not, they have no business in that address, and we are sorry to see them or any other matter not understood by the great body of those to whom these preceedings are read and for whom they are prepared.

The following we insert for the information which it contains:

"Referring to the Constitution (on regalia, page 46), of the many higher grades of Masonry, the orders of Knights Templar and Knights of Malta appear alone to have received the formal recognition of Grand Chapter. At the last Annual Convocation it was moved on notice given at the session of 1871, to 'extend such recognition so as to include the degrees of the A. and A. Rite, Royal order of Scotland, Red Cross of Rome and Constantine, Royal Ark Mariner, and also the degrees of Cryptic Masonry'; but it was deemed expedient to 'refer the propriety of such recognition of all or any of the degrees as recited to the Executive Committee,' who from want of time were unable to report. I have been requested to ask Grand Chapter to keep the matter in view. The possession of many of these grades, especially that of the A. and A. Rite, on the continent of Europe is deemed almost indispensable to the traveling Mason, and the fact that my worthy predecessor, so zealous a guardian of the purity of Masonry, is the Grand Representative of this rite, will have weight in the consideration. The degree of Royal Ark Mariner is an appendant degree to the Royal Arch in Scotland, and in England its government has been recently amalgamated in that of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons, R. E. Companion Col. McLeod Moore, the

Grand Prior of the Temple in Canada, is at the head of this order as introduced into Canada, as well as of the knightly order of Rome and Constantine, which is highly thought of in England and the United States. The Cryptic degrees were for a time presided over by Most Excellent Companion Harington, Past Grand Zerubbable, and now by R. E. Companion Daniel Spry, the present Grand Superintendent of the Toronto District, as Grand Master. The question of the Royal Arch forming a pre-requisite for admission into all or any of these orders, should perhaps be considered in viewing the question of recognition."

We were always under the impression that it were best to keep our recognition to bodies working the same degrees as ourselves, and think so still. We believe it best to have R. A. M. unadulterated with anything above (so called) itself.

The reports of the Superintendents of the Districts are very complete, and show that the Companions who were appointed have done their work well.

The report on Correspondence is again by Companion Henry Robertson and is extensive and complete.

The following from Lousanne:

"We are glad they 'put on the brakes' *somewhere*. This objection business is being carried on decidedly too far. Where it is allowed it gets the Grand Chapter and their subordinates into all sorts of difficulties, and at nearly every Session a *new law* has to be passed to meet some particular case which has arisen since the last, until even now, although this question is comparatively a new one, the legislation and decisions on this point alone, would make a respectable volume. Here, in Canada, we have no law on the subject, either for or against 'objections after election,' and we find no inconvenience whatever from the want of one. But if a law must be had, how much better and easier, and more simple it would be to allow no objections except *for cause*, and to require the objections to be followed by a *charge* and *due trial*. We believe that a Master Mason who can be shown to be unfit to be a Royal Arch Mason, is not fit to remain a Master Mason; if he cannot be thus shown to be unfit, and the Companions by a unanimous ballot have decided to accept him, we hold that he is entitled to the Chapter Degrees, and to receive that information which he is told in the Craft Lodge, belongs to him as a Master Mason, but which he cannot get there."

Pennsylvania receives fraternal notice at his hands. He credits us with statistics of Royal Arch Masonry in United States and Canada, which he publishes with the Proceedings.

Companion C. D. MACDONNELL, (elected) *Grand Zerubbable.*

Companion THOMAS B. HARRIS, (re-elected) *Scribe E.*

CONNECTICUT.

The Seventy-sixth Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter of the State of Connecticut, was held in the City of Hartford, May 12th, 1874.

Most Excellent William Wallace Lee, Grand High Priest, presiding, from whose address we clip the following and feel glad the subject received such careful attention at his hands:

"I have reluctantly granted one dispensation to renew an application within the time fixed by law, where it was supposed a mistake had been made in a ballot. I have received a number of applications to shorten the time in which a ballot might be had, to set aside the by-laws of the subordinates, etc., but with this exception have refused them all. I dislike to appear ungracious or disobliging, but I am firmly convinced that law should be obeyed—not violated, ignored, or set aside by any one. I regard the Grand High Priest as the executive officer of this Body—the Body itself is the law-making power. Now, if the law which takes away from the High Priest all right to judge of the merits or demerits of a case of emergency be wrong and detrimental to the interests of the several subordinates, then it should be amended or repealed, not violated or set aside."

The report on Correspondence by Companion John N. S. Lewis is both voluminous and able. It is much the larger half of the book, but well repays perusal. We clip the following and accept the explanation it conveys for what to us was unaccountable. We however, after due inquiry, find that our proceedings have been regularly (three copies) mailed to that Grand Chapter, and hope Companion Lewis will help us find out whose fault it is. Pennsylvania has not been honored with a notice for years:

"It has not been our privilege to receive and review the proceedings of Illinois, New York, Pennsylvania or Rhode

Island since we have been your Committee on Correspondence."

From his review of California we clip the following :

" Now, from its earliest existence, tradition informs us, the rituals bear testimony, and we firmly believe, that the cornerstone of Masonry as an organized society, has been its *voluntary* character. This is indicated by the very name, *Free* and Accepted Mason. And if there is one sentiment which causes the heart to swell with honest pride, quickens the pulse to earnest endeavor, causes the eye to kindle and glow with fervent zeal, and the sensibilities to reach forth with love and kindness towards our fellows, it is the *consciousness of freedom*. To Americans, it is as the light of the sun ; the pure air of heaven ; the shower after the drought; the evening breeze in August. We inhale it with every breath we draw ; it sustains us in all the trials of life, and refreshes us after its conflicts and disappointments.

" Let *Free* Masons, then exercise a modicum of the wisdom of our first Most Worshipful Grand Master, in adapting a necessary innovation to the time-honored and inherent *freedom* of the order. Lodge or Chapter membership, with its peculiar attendant privileges, may justly be coupled with and hinge upon a definite pecuniary contribution towards its organic maintenance. But do not force any worthy Brother or Companion to the alternative of either making the humiliating confession of his poverty, or being branded as a Masonic criminal. We believe it *our* duty to be an affiliated member of a Lodge, a Chapter, a Council, and a Commandery ; but we deem it a question of personal duty which we are *free* to decide for ourself, responsible to no one but our God and our conscience, and we accord the same *free* decision to every Brother, Companion, and Sir Knight in the Universe. If any one chooses to debar himself from the rights and privileges of membership—and if you will reflect a moment you will note many which do not pertain to a non-affiliate—why, let him go. We have'nt half the dread of the disastrous influence of non-affiliated Masons, that we have of those who, with no love or appreciation of our principles, no desire for the moral elevation of themselves or others, might be retained in membership solely through dread of discipline—dead wood, gnarled, withered and dried-up limbs, sticking to the trunk solely because the cohesive power of law keeps them there, to mar all the lovely proportions of the tree by their inherent hideousness.

"But one word more. On the 'dollars and cents' principle of Companion Wiggin, we ask this question. After having *paid* for his degrees, and the consequent advantages, has not every Mason the right to decide for himself whether he will further pay for the *further privileges of membership*? Companion Wiggin rightly says, 'the good and true Mason needs no incentive to pay his dues ;' and we will add that it is a reproach and a scandal, that such an one should be forced by *the law* to accord the equal rights of membership, to the unworthy cravens who 'pay them grudgingly and tardily,' only through dread of discipline."

Companion Lewis's reasoning to one who does not want to pay dues, *sounds very well*. And if all were animated by the same high-toned honor as our Brother Chip, it would be *very well*, but we opine that if you remove the punishment for non-payment of dues, leaving the question one of mere choice as to pay or not to pay, it would not be long before you would find so many of our Companions taking such advantage of your generosity, as to find it irksome to get working expenses.

The question raised in the above, viz.: "Does not the Royal Arch Mason pay for his degrees?" We answer, Yes ; and he gets them; but he must bear his proportion of the expenses of maintaining the Craft; and if he does not, suspend him from its rights, privileges and benefits.

The following from Massachusetts we fully concur in :

"At the first quarterly Convocation, on the 11th of March, the Grand High Priest submitted 'a form of burial service' for the funerals of Royal Arch Masons, which was referred to a committee of five, under the chairmanship of M. E. Henry Chickering, Past Grand High Priest. At the third quarterly Convocation held on the 9th of September, four of the committee reported in favor of adopting a burial service and recommended that proposed by Companion Chapman with some changes. The chairman of the committee dissented; but on what grounds we are not informed. The report was adopted, and after another revision by the committee the liturgy was, at the annual convocation, adopted by the Grand Chapter. It is printed in full in the proceedings, and is very beautiful and impressive. We confess, however, that to our mind it is more appropriate to leave Masonic funerals in the hands of the Craft Lodges, where life, death and the

resurrection are so beautifully and forcibly symbolized. We could give many reasons which it would hardly be proper to put in print, but which must readily recur to your minds on a moment's reflection. We will only add, that we fear there is a tendency to neglect the symbolic degrees, among those who have gone higher in the Order, and a disposition to assume for the Chapter features and prerogatives which rightfully belong to the Lodge alone. We frankly confess, that, while we trust we do not fail in appreciation of the other degrees of York Masonry—and we received them all, years ago—we believe the first three contain more of value, both philosophical and symbolic, and are of more practical benefit to humanity than all the others combined.

Companion EDMUND TWEEDY, (elected,) *Grand High Priest.*
Companion Jos. K. WHEELER, (re-elected,) *Grand Secretary.*

DELAWARE.

The Sixth Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter of the State of Delaware was held in the City of Wilmington, January 21, 1874. M. E. Companion G. W. Stone, Grand High Priest, presiding.

The following from his excellent address will be read with interest.

“ The history of Capitular Masonry in our State has been a chequered one. In the language so often used in ancient history, ‘It *rose, flourished and fell.*’

“ Most of us who are now members of this Grand Chapter labored assiduously among its ruins, and have, after considerable effort, succeeded in rearing this present temple, which, if it is not grand and imposing, is at least of fair proportions and in perfect harmony.

The machinery seems now to be in perfect order, and I trust no one will be found in the years to come who will have either the power or disposition to disturb its workings, through mistaken zeal or personal ambition.

“ Its life then being safe and its sustenance secured beyond all probable danger, should we not address ourselves with renewed devotion and zeal to what is after all the chief work, not only of Capitular Masonry, but of *all* Masonry, the advancement of the great principles of *Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth.*

“ It is important that we should know our ritual well; that

we should be familiar with all the forms and ceremonies of Capitular Masonry, that we should keep our working tools in good order, and burnished brightly ; but let us not substitute the *description* of the thing for the *thing itself*; let us not bury the *spirit* in the letter, but let us mingle with our beautiful and impressive ceremonies a practical exemplification of the lessons they teach ; let us not only exhort but let us *do the work*.

“ There is an opportunity within the Jurisdiction of every Subordinate Chapter belonging to this body to put in practice the excellent principles we so impressively teach in our work and lectures, and I unhesitatingly assert that if you will each seek out and apply our principles whenever and wherever an opportunity presents itself, you will not hear any complaint of a want of interest in your Convocations or of a scarcity of work.

Also the following, referring to uniformity of the work, is full of information :

“ I am aware that the subject of uniformity of work has been before nearly all the Grand Chapters of the United States, at some time, and that it has generally been the cause of much anxiety and discussion. Still, it does seem to me, that in so small a Jurisdiction as ours, we ought to be able to grapple successfully with this question in all its details.

“ Heretofore we have been at a stand for the want of some plan upon which to proceed, and therefore, while doubting my own ability to cope successfully with so difficult a question, I will venture to suggest a plan that has occurred to me, hoping that if it shall be found impracticable, it may, at least, suggest to some other Companion a way out of our present difficulty.

“ The first thing it seems to me to be decided, is *what* work shall we adopt ? for at present we have no standard work, and no two of our Chapters use the same work, and therefore we must find some work that is fixed and unchanging, and that can always be found when wanted ; some work that is held and guarded officially by some power competent to keep it and protect it from innovation and change.

“ Very few of our Grand Chapters are large enough, strong enough, and (pardon the expression, for money has power even in Masonry) rich enough to be able to employ competent talent for such a purpose.

“ This once ascertained, and the next step is how to get it, and how to keep it.

“ The solution of these three questions is what we want, and I address myself to them in order :—

“First. *Where* shall such a work be found?

“When we wanted a Constitution we went to the Grand Chapter of New York, because it was the largest one in this country, and had had the advice and experience of some of the ablest *Masons* in the land to guide it in its legislation. The same Companions that made our Constitution, made a complete and thorough revision of the work of the Capitular degrees, and after a most searching examination, and mature deliberation, produced a work which is supposed to be a restoration of the original work of these degrees, with the errors which several generations had introduced, carefully expunged, and the whole made as nearly perfect as possible, while retaining its ancient forms and ceremonies.

“The Grand Chapter of New York requires its Grand Lecturer to keep this work, and to impart it to any Chapter that may need it. I am assured by those who have the means of knowing, that we can if we choose, avail ourselves of the same privileges as are possessed by the Subordinate Chapters in the Jurisdiction of the State of New York, and I see no better way of ending our troubles than by acting upon this suggestion.

“Second. How to get it?

“By reference to article 3d, section 42, of our Constitution, it will be seen that the Grand High Priest has authority to appoint a Grand Lecturer, whose duty it will be to instruct Chapters, and section 43 requires every Subordinate Chapter to adopt and practice the standard work.

“My suggestion is that the Grand High Priest appoint, in the language of the section named, a ‘discreet and well informed Royal Arch Mason’ to obtain this work, in order that it may all be communicated from one source, and thus be preserved in its purity.

“Third. How to keep it?

“For this purpose I would suggest that the office of Grand Lecturer be made a permanent office of this Grand Chapter, and that such an officer be required to exemplify any degree of Capitular Masonry, at any stated or special Convocation of this Grand Body that he may be called on so to do.

“Of course the success of this plan depends almost entirely upon the selection made for Grand Lecturer. Men qualified for that office are rare, and an unfortunate appointment would result in a certain failure of the plan; but on the other hand a fortunate selection would, I believe, settle the question satisfactorily and forever.”

The following will show a move in the right direction:

“On the third recommendation, viz: The appointment of a

Grand Lecturer, your committee would recommend that instead of appointing a Grand Lecturer at this time, that the M. E. Grand High Priest be required to exemplify, at the next annual Convocation of this Grand Chapter, the work that he, in his judgment, may consider the best adapted to this jurisdiction."

No report on Correspondence.

M. E. Companion G. W. STONE, (re-elected,) *Grand High Priest.*

M. E. Companion J. P. ALLMOND, (re-elected,) *Grand Secretary.*

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

The Seventh Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter of the District of Columbia was held in the City of Washington, November 11, 1873. M. E. Companion A. S. Longley, Grand High Priest, presiding.

The following decisions were reported to the Grand Chapter:

"I have been called upon by Lafayette Chapter, No. 5, to decide upon the following case :

"A brother Master Mason in good standing, in the State of Illinois, but now a resident of this city, petitions their Chapter for the degrees, but stated on the petition, that some three years previous he had petitioned a Chapter in Illinois (being then a resident of that jurisdiction), and had been elected, but having been called away from the State, he had not been able to obtain the degrees.

"I decided the Chapter could not receive the brother's petition, but could confer the degrees upon the petitioner upon the request of the Chapter in which he had been elected.

"Also, from the same Chapter the following questions, viz.:

"1st. Can a protest be entered by a member of another Chapter against a candidate taking the degrees in this Chapter?

"2d. Is it proper to enter a protest against a candidate taking the degrees by a member of this or any other Chapter by giving it verbally to the M. E. High Priest, or should it be in writing and filed with the Secretary?

"Answer. A protest against a candidate receiving the degrees should be presented by a member of the Chapter in which the petition was acted upon, and by no other: and it should be in writing, and filed with the Secretary, that it may become a matter of record, thereby doing no injustice to the Chapter, the Companion protesting or the candidate."

The following we think sound:

"One of our Chapters (Lafayette, No. 5), during the past year, has been highly honored, by receiving from the Grand Chapter of Canada an invitation to make them a fraternal visit, and exemplify the work of this Grand Chapter before that Grand body. The invitation was accepted, the trip made, and the Royal Arch degree exemplified in a very satisfactory manner, I am informed.

"While I am satisfied that the officers of Lafayette or any other Chapter in this jurisdiction could exemplify the Capitular degrees before the Grand bodies of this, or any foreign country, with credit to themselves and to this Grand Chapter, still I am fully of the opinion that an invitation of this kind, from a Grand to a subordinate Chapter, should have come through this Grand Chapter, and the Grand Representative of Canada near this Grand Chapter must have forgotten to extend the courtesy due from one grand body to another.

"While I have no cause to complain of the action of Lafayette Chapter or her officers in this particular instance, I would recommend that the Grand Chapter adopt some rule requiring the sanction of this Grand Body or the M. E. Grand High Priest before any Chapter could appear officially in any public procession (except in cases of funeral), or going to other jurisdictions either to confer the degrees or exemplify the work."

He reports his visit at the dedication of the Grand Chapter Hall in our new Temple in a kindly, fraternal manner, giving evidence of the gratification he felt at our prosperity.

The following we clip, and shall watch with interest for the report of the committee:

"Companion Albert Pike stated that inasmuch as it had been asserted in the Grand Chapter this evening that Chapters were working in this jurisdiction under Charters granted by the Grand Chapters of Scotland and England, he would therefore move that a committee of three be appointed to ascertain if such were the facts, and if so, the committee report to the Grand High Priest, and that he at once notify such Grand Bodies that unless the Charters were immediately revoked he would declare Masonic intercourse suspended, and request sister Grand Bodies to do likewise. Companions Albert Pike, A. G. Mackey and J. E. F. Holmead were appointed the committee."

The following was offered by Companion Noble D. Larner,

and we think is a move in the right direction, and is the same procedure as has been our custom for years, in fact since the organization of our Grand Chapter:

“Resolved, That it shall be the duty of the M. E. Grand High Priest, attended by his Grand Officers, to make a Grand Visitation at least once a year to the different Chapters in this jurisdiction—fourteen days previous notice having been given to the M. E. High Priest of each Chapter of such intended Grand Visitation; and that it shall be the duty of the M. E. High Priest of every Chapter to cause to be furnished to the R. E. Grand Secretary, at least one week prior to the time fixed by the M. E. Grand High Priest for the annual Grand Visitation to the Chapter, the record and other books of the Chapter, for his examination; and it shall be the duty of the Grand Secretary to report to the M. E. Grand High Priest, at the Grand Visitation, the condition of the affairs of the Chapter, stating the manner in which the books of the Chapter have been kept, and giving such other information in reference to the Chapter as he may deem necessary.”

The report on Correspondence was by Companion E. B. MacGrotty, and is very good. From his review of New Hampshire, we take the following which he selected from Companion Bell's report :

“ We think it would be well for zealous Companions, before too great fraternization with strangers, to see that they are not misled by names. We believe the Royal Arch of the Grand Chapter of England and that of the Grand Chapter of Scotland to have very slight resemblance to the Webb Royal Arch of this country: in fact, that they belong to different Masonic rites, and that they cannot and should not recognize each other in any other sense than as we recognize the Ninth Arch or Royal Arch of Enoch of the A., and A. Rite.”

“ What do our Companions of the State of Pennsylvania think of that assertion ?

“ Hence, we deem all attempts at fraternization and correspondence with those Grand Chapters to be mistaken, however well meant, and the results will only be to introduce new disputes in addition to the sufficient number we already have.”

We think Companion Bell is wrong in his premises and conclusions. That the members of the jurisdictions excepted to by him are Royal Arch Masons there is no doubt. That the

jurisdiction of New Hampshire would recognize them as such there cannot be any doubt ; and that being settled, we are sure we deserve thanks for getting an interchange of correspondence with them for the same reason that we do with all other Grand Chapters, viz.: to let them know what we are doing, and learning from them what they do, so that by comparison we may probably be able to benefit each other. We can personally testify that the extracts, letters, &c., from England and Scotland that were published by Pennsylvania and the District of Columbia were almost universally copied and with commendation.

Pennsylvania received fraternal notice.

Companion NOBLE D. LARNER, (elected,) *M. E. Grand High Priest.*

Companion LEWIS G. STEPHENS, (elected,) *Grand Secretary.*

GEORGIA.

The Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter of Georgia was held in the City of Macon, April 20, 1874. M. E. Companion George W. Adams, Grand High Priest, delivered an address of local interest only.

The proceedings are meagre; nothing of general interest transpired. No report on Foreign Correspondence.

M. E. Companion LUTHER I. GREENE, (elected,) *Grand High Priest.*

Companion J. EMMETT BLACKSHEAR, (re-elected,) *Grand Secretary.*

ILLINOIS.

The Twenth-fourth Annual Convention was held in the City of Chicago, October 30, 1873.

Companion Asa W. Blakesley, M. E. Grand High Priest, delivered a very interesting address, giving the following bit of history, which we quote to show the go-aheadativeness of our Companions of that famous *village* :

“ The history of this Grand Chapter, from its organization, April 9, 1850, to the present time, show a continued and steady progress. From the little number of six Chapters, which first

organized the Grand Chapter of this State, we have steadily advanced to 154. At the organization in 1850, we numbered about 240 members, at our last Convocation we numbered 9,378,—showing an annual increase of 380 members. Still the work goes nobly on. New blocks are added annually, and the temple rises in steady and uninterrupted harmony. It has been my fortune to have met this Grand Body annually, from 1851 to the present time."

We also clip the following from the same address, and must confess that we think there is a great deal of complication in the way of a member who leaves his Chapter to join a new one:

"In relation to the membership of Companions George N. Houghton and H. F. Holcomb, referred to the Grand High Priest at the last Annual Convocation, I can only say: I have not been able to obtain any information from Corinthian Chapter, No. 69, or from Washington Chapter, No. 43, as to the facts in the case. Chicago Chapter, No. 127, has responded to my call for information, and states as follows: 'That on the constituting of Chicago Chapter, No. 127, in 1868, the names of Geo. N. Houghton and H. F. Holcomb were in the Charter of said Chapter as Charter members; and that H. F. Holcomb afterwards signed the By-Laws of said Chapter; and that George N. Houghton has not signed the By-Laws.' Chicago Chapter also states that M. E. Past Grand High Priests A. A. Murray and James A. Hawley both decided that H. F. Holcomb was a member of Washington Chapter, No. 43, and ask, 'Where is the law?' The rule has always obtained in this Grand Chapter, that a Companion, becoming a Charter member in a new Chapter dimitted him from the old Chapter, and he became a member of the new Chapter. It appears, in the case under consideration, that Companions George N. Houghton and H. F. Holcomb were both Charter members of Chicago Chapter, No. 127, and therefore, according to the rule governing this matter, they are members of Chicago Chapter, No. 127.

"The question has been asked by a number of Chapters during the year, whether a Companion, becoming a Charter member of a new Chapter, was thereby dimitted from his old Chapter. I decided that he was."

We are not familiar with the practice as illustrated in the above, and are free to say, we do not like it. We suppose, however, that it comes from giving the Grand High Priest

power to grant a dispensation to a number of Companions to open and hold a Chapter under his dispensation subject to the approval of the Grand Chapter, so that when they apply for a warrant the Grand Chapter reviews their work, and if approved they become members of the new Chapter, and cease to be members of their old Chapter. The practice is not sound, except, perhaps, on the ground of the Grand Chapter in that jurisdiction meeting but once a year, and the patience of the Companions not sufficient to wait so long. The principle of a member leaving one Chapter and becoming a member of another without a dimit, is, in our judgment, a wrong one. As A. B. might belong to Chapter No. —, a number of members of that and other Chapters being desirous of forming a new Chapter, apply for a dispensation to hold and open a Chapter, which is granted ; A. B. owes one year or more dues, which he fails to pay to his old Chapter ; is it right that you make him an active member in a new, while in default in his old Chapter ?

The practice with us is very different, and, so far, has been entirely satisfactory in its results ; it is as follows :

A number of Royal Arch Masons in good standing desire to form and hold a Chapter, they severally *resign* from their Chapters, each one receiving a dimit from the Chapter to which he belonged, said dimit being a clear receipt to him that his record with that Chapter was clear. The requisite number make a petition, setting forth their wish, nominate their officers, sign that petition and deposit it, *with their dimits*, with the Grand Secretary, who examines the same and presents it to the Grand Chapter ; it is usually referred to the Grand Officers, (elective,) with power to act if they find the Companions to be intelligent, their officers versed in the ritual, their ability to purchase regalia, &c., and their place of meeting unquestioned. They are then constituted and become a regular Royal Arch Chapter.

But we do not permit that any one can belong to two Chapters at the same time, or where they can leave one and join another without first resigning, which, when done, entitles them to a dimit.

The ruling in the following case we think is sound, as to the last part:

“Sullivan Chapter, No. 128, says: ‘We have one Most Excellent Master, and one Past Master, upon whom we conferred the degrees on a credit, and they now decline to go any further, or pay for what they have got. *Query.* Shall they be summoned to appear before the Chapter to answer, or shall it be conducted in a Lodge of the degree to which they have attained?’ I decided that they should be tried in a Lodge of the degree to which they had attained, if tried at all; but that inasmuch as they had conferred the degrees without the money, in violation of the Rule and the By-Laws, they had better drop the matter and try and do better in the future.”

The following is quoted to show an action which is, to say the least, novel:

“April 11, 1873, I received a communication from Bloomington Chapter, No. 26, stating ‘that said Chapter revised her By-Laws, and remitted the dues of certain members, and declared them honorary members, in consideration of age and services they had rendered. Two years after, Bloomington Chapter rescinded their action, and directed the Secretary to collect dues from all members, and then ask the following questions:

“1. ‘Had the Chapter the right to declare the Companions honorary members, and remit their dues?’ I decided they had.

“2. ‘Having that right, could the Chapter rescind its former action, and by so doing deprive Companions of the honors and rewards to which they were entitled, and which they received as a voluntary acknowledgment of the obligations it owed to said Companions?’ I decided it could.

“3. ‘If you answer the first question, No; do the dues to be collected commence at the date of the first or second action?’ I decided at the time of the second action.”

The report on Correspondence is by Companion Jas. H. Miles, the Grand Secretary, and, as usual, is up to a high standard. Pennsylvania receives fraternal notice. We regret to have to pass many good things in that admirable report which we had marked; but Illinois has her full share of our space.

Companion GEO. E. LOUNSBURY, *M. E. Grand High Priest.*

Companion JAMES H. MILES, (re-elected,) *Grand Seeretary.*

INDIANA.

The Twenty-eighth Annual Convocation was held in the City of Indianapolis, October 22, 1873.

M. E. Companion Eden H. Davis, Grand High Priest, in his address is rather severe upon Representatives as the following will show:

"On several occasions I have been solicited to commission Representatives near other Grand Chapters. And although these fancies have been indulged in by my predecessors, under authority of the Grand Chapter, yet, upon mature reflection, I declined to make any appointment of the kind whatever. This system of exchanging Representatives with other Grand Chapters has now been in practice among the fraternity in the United States for a number of the past years, but what there really is in it, or what benefit has resulted from its use, I am wholly at a loss to perceive. A few names have thus been brought prominently before the fraternity by being reported in our printed Proceedings from year to year as the Representatives of, etc., etc., and this appears to be the whole of it. If anything else has been accomplished by the enterprise, I must confess that I have not been able to see it. If, then, I am correct in my estimate of the matter, might we not now as well refrain from any further indulgencies in this line, and leave it as one of the refined fancies of the age that has fully run its course?"

We think the Grand High Priest labors under a misapprehension of the importance of representatives. We thought as he did once, but Companion Wiggin of California converted us. Since then we have known several instances where positive good resulted from the efforts of Representatives to members of jurisdictions away from home who called upon the Companion credited from that jurisdiction.

The following is the report of the Committee called Committee on Foreign Correspondence, and it has the true ring:

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

WANT OF REPORT ON F. C.

Companion Ellis submitted the following:

The Committee on Foreign Correspondence to whom was referred so much of the Address of the M. E. Grand High

Priest as refers to his inability, in consequence of ill-health, to prepare the usual report on Foreign Correspondence, report:

“‘ That in their opinion it is, in all cases of disability from whatever cause, the duty as well as the privilege of the presiding officer to select and designate some suitable Companion to discharge that duty, so that the Companions throughout our jurisdiction shall not be deprived of the pleasure and profit to be derived from such report. The Committee make no reflection upon the case herein referred to, as our M. E. Grand High Priest for the past year has our deepest sympathies in his afflictions, but simply desire to guard against any future failures.’”

The following from the report of Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence is sound:

“ The payment of all dues to a Chapter is a pre-requisite to a dimit from a Chapter in all cases. That a Chapter to whom any amount may remain due, retains full jurisdiction of the delinquent until all arrearages are fully paid.”

The following address we insert in full for the benefit of our members, the subject being one not often treated of at a length this is.

“ The following address was presented by Companion Wm. Hacker, the M. E. President, at the opening of the Grand Council of High Priesthood, and is here published for the general information it contains :

“ My Companions, High Priests :

“ It is not a custom in our Order for presiding officers to prepare and deliver opening addresses at our Annual Assemblies, as in other Grand Masonic Bodies, yet I will so far trespass upon your time, as to present a few thoughts upon the origin and early history of the Order, who its authors really were, and by what authority it has been brought in and adopted as a legitimate degree in our American Rite of Freemasonry, and thus, if possible, correct the many erroneous theories which have been put forth by some of the Masonic writers of the present day, who, if they have ever been admitted to the privileges of the Order at all—as most of them claim to have been—are so totally ignorant of the subject they have undertaken to write upon, that what they have said has but produced confusion in the minds of many of our members, and led them to form very erroneous views of the origin and true history of the Order.

"To set this matter in a proper light before you, and, if possible, disabuse your minds of any erroneous impressions you may have received from the many theories thus put forth, and, if possible, give the true origin of the Order, is the sole object sought to be attained in addressing you at this time.

"While it may be true, as one author has said, that 'no allusion to it can be found in any ritual work out of America, nor even here anterior to about the end of the last or beginning of the present century,' yet I apprehend that fact should not be taken as conclusive evidence that our fathers who gave us the degree have left upon record no 'authentic documents to throw much light upon the historical origin of the Order.'

"Another author, who has written and published in two large volumes what he claims to be a true history of Masonry, says:

"'We have not yet examined the history of the origin of the Order of High Priesthood, but we do not hesitate to say that it is a thing of modern invention.'—'The hatched-up traditions of this so-called Order clearly show it to have been the invention of some Masonic driveler who was totally ignorant of the true history of Freemasonry.'—'Shall we be told that because Abraham was the Father of the Faithful and the chosen of God, he therefore instituted the Order of the High Priesthood in Masonry? We rejoice to say that a new light begins to dawn upon the Craft, and that intelligent men are beginning to separate the chaff from the wheat.'—'If these modern degrees are of sufficient importance to be preserved and practiced, let them be formed into a distinct and separate organization, and by some other name than Masonry, that our time-honored and divinely-instituted Order may not be polluted or encumbered by these newly-invented gew-gaws.'

"And all this—and much more of a similar import—from one who admits at the outset that he had 'not yet examined into the history of the origin of the Order.'

"But leaving these things all to go for just what they are worth, what, then, is the true origin of the Order as we have it—who are its authors, and by what authority has it been instituted and handed down to us? To set this matter in a proper light before the members of our Order, I now refer you to the following historical facts:

"The Order of High Priesthood, as we have it, is exclusively of American origin, and not recognized—if at all known—beyond the jurisdiction of the General Grand Chapter of the United States. This is an important item not to be lost sight of in the investigation of the subject we have undertaken.

“We then turn to the early American publications and find nothing in reference to the Order prior to the beginning of the present century. Even Webb, in the first edition of his Monitor, published in 1797, makes no mention of it; but in his second edition, published in 1802, he gives a monitorial ritual for the Order of High Priesthood, or as he terms it, ‘Observations on the Order of High Priest.’ From this we may infer that at some period between these two dates we must look for the true origin of the Order.

“We next turn to the published proceedings of what is now called the General Grand Chapter of the United States, but at that time known as the ‘General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the Six Northern States of America.’ We find that Grand Body was first organized on the 26th day of January, 1798, by the adoption of a Constitution and the election of officers.

“The second regular meeting—as appears from the records—was held at the city of Providence, Rhode Island, on the 9th day of January, 1799, when Benjamin Hurd, Thomas S. Webb and James Harrison were appointed ‘a Committee to revise the Constitution and report such alterations and amendments thereto as they should find necessary to be made.’

“On the next day, January 10th, 1799, Webb, as the chairman of the committee, submitted their report, which, it appears, was adopted.

“Article IV. of that Constitution, then adopted, contains the forms for constituting new Chapters and installing the High Priests into office. Following these forms, we find that after the new Chapter has been constituted and dedicated, the Companion nominated in the Warrant for High Priest is presented for installation, to whom the installing officer propounds the eleven interrogations to which he responds. The installing prayer is then offered, after which,

“‘All the Companions, except High Priests and Past High Priests, are requested to withdraw while the new High Priest is solemnly bound to the performance of his duties, and after the performance of other necessary ceremonies not proper to be written, they are permitted to return.’

“The question here arises, What are those ‘other necessary ceremonies not proper to be written?’ A few lines further on we have this language: ‘In consequence of your cheerful acquiescence with the charges and regulations, just recited, I now declare you duly installed *and anointed* High Priest of this new Chapter.’ Here the words ‘*and anointed*’ evidently

gives us the key by which we may fully comprehend what those '*other necessary ceremonies*' were, and most certainly and truly gives us all the information necessary to enable us to fix the date and determine the authority by which the Order of High Priesthood was instituted, as also who its authors really were.

"This amended Constitution is not only signed by the General Grand Officers, viz.:

Benjamin Hurd, G. G. High Priest;
 Thomas S. Webb, G. G. King;
 James Harrison, G. G. Scribe;
 William Woart, G. G. Secretary;
 Abraham L. Clark, G. G. Chaplain;

but also by the representatives then present, viz.:

From the Grand Chapter of Massachusetts:

Benjamin Hurd, Jr., G. H. Priest.
 James Harrison, G. Scribe.

From the Grand Chapter of Rhode Island:

Seth Wheaton, G. H. Priest.
 Gersham Jones, G. King.
 Samuel Eddy, G. Scribe.

From the Grand Chapter of New York:

De Witt Clinton, G. H. Priest.
 Thomas Frothingham, G. King.
 Jedediah Sanger, G. Scribe.

"I have been thus particular in giving the names of all who subscribed to this provision of the Constitution, in order that you may see and know upon whom rests the responsibility of the institution of the Order of High Priesthood as we have it. And I apprehend the present generation is hardly yet prepared to write those honored names, as they stand thus recorded, as '*Masonic drivellers, hatching up traditions and polluting our divinely-instituted Order with their newly-invented gew-gaws.*'

"We then have for the authors of our Order of High Priesthood, Thomas Smith Webb, of Temple Chapter, Albany, New York; Benjamin Hurd, Jr., and James Harrison, of the Grand Chapter of Massachusetts. For the true date of its origin, January 10th, 1799; and for the authority of its institution and promulgation, the General Grand Chapter of the United States of America.

"This provision of the Constitution, we find, continued a part of that instrument until the Triennial Communication held in the city of Lexington, Kentucky, when, on the 19th day of

September, 1853, it was repealed, at which time the Order of High Priesthood became the exclusive property of those who were in possession of it. It thus remained a part of the constitutional requirements of Royal Arch Masonry from its first institution on the 10th day of January, 1799, up to the 19th day of September, 1853, a space of nearly fifty-five years.

"Where our Excellent Companions got the original thoughts or germ out of which the Order was formed, will, perhaps, have to be left more to conjecture; yet even here I think we may find some data upon which to base a conclusion. In setting about the formation of an Order for the Priesthood, what could be more natural than to refer to the Scriptural history of the meeting of Melchisedek, Priest of the Most High God, with Abraham, the circumstances which occasioned that meeting, the bringing forth bread and wine, the blessing, etc., etc. Surely nothing could equal, or be more appropriate for the purpose than these circumstances as they stand thus recorded.

"A further illustration of this point may be had in a footnote found in an English ritual work of the past century. That note is as follows:

"In some Priories the candidate partakes of bread from the point of the sword, and wine from a chalice placed upon the blade handed to him by the Prelate.'

"Again, in an old manuscript of the past century, from Scotland, now lying before me, I find a similar idea made use of.

"But the question now arises, Was Webb and his associates in possession of, or did they have a knowledge of those ritual works, to which I referred? I think they were, and for the following reasons: In those ritual works are to be found many thoughts and expressions made use of by Webb in the arrangement of his Royal Arch Degree, which are to be found nowhere else, showing most conclusively that he was not only in possession of, but must also have been very familiar with them.

"It is very evident that the committee in arranging the ceremonies and rituals of the Order, as also the General Grand Chapter in adopting it as a part of the Constitutional requirements of Royal Arch Masonry, designed that it should be conferred as a part of the High Priest's installation ceremonies. And whether Webb and his associates in the General Grand Chapter ever conferred it at any other time or in any other manner, I have been unable to learn. When and by whom it was first conferred as a separate ceremonial, disconnected with

the installation ceremonies, is equally unknown to me. It is, however, more than probable that it has always been conferred in the West as a separate ceremonial. It is well known that Companion John Snow—Webb's business partner, and associated with him in teaching the American System of Masonry among the newly formed settlements west of the mountains—always conferred it as a separate ceremonial either before or after the installation, as circumstances might indicate. And I have met with those who claim to have received the Order from the celebrated Lorenzo Dow, who for a time served as High Priest of the Chapter at Vincennes, in this State, of whom it is said that he always conferred it as a separate ceremonial.

“ The earliest records I have yet been able to discover of the organization of a Council of High Priests as an independent organization, is in the printed proceedings of the Grand Chapter of Ohio for 1828, at which time the records show that a Council for the State was duly organized, rules for its government adopted, and a full list of officers elected, with Companion John Snow as President of the Council, as then organized. This organization, it will be observed, was twenty-five years before the General Grand Chapter had relinquished her jurisdiction over the Order. That Council, thus organized by our old and venerated Companions, we find still in good working order, meeting regularly and annually for the transaction of business.

“ From the foregoing facts, which have been collected with much care, from such written and printed documents as have come within my reach, I am led to infer that our beautiful and most truly sublime Order, instead of being the ‘gew-gaws of Masonic drivellers,’ is as truly a legitimate Order in our American Rite of Freemasonry, as any other Order or degree we have. Equally as much so as is the Royal Arch Degree—adopted and made legitimate by the same constituted authority, and at about the same time as was the Royal Arch in its present form. That its true date is January 10, 1799; that Thomas Smith Webb was really its author, as he was also of the Most Excellent and Royal Arch Degrees as we now have them; that it was voted for and approved by such well known and much revered lights in our Mystic Temple as Benjamin Hurd, High Priest of St. Andrew's Chapter, of Boston, which, no doubt, was the first Chapter organized on this continent—Rev. Abraham L. Clark, High Priest of Providence Chapter, No. 2, Rhode Island, and the Hon. De Witt Clinton, Grand High Priest of New York; that it continued a part of the con-

stitutional regulations of Royal Arch Masonry until the 19th of September, 1853, more than fifty-four years, when it was surrendered by the General Grand Chapter, exclusively to such duly organized Councils of High Priests, as might assume control of it. And that Companion John Snow, the Grand High Priest of Ohio—the life-long companion and associate of Companion Webb, and his successor in teaching and propagating Royal Arch Masonry in the West—was the first to organize a regular Council of High Priests for the purpose of conferring the order in a regular and legitimate manner, separate and apart from the installation ceremonies.

“A few thoughts now as to the introduction of the Order in our own State, and I will have done.

“Companion Thomas Bishop, of Vincennes, informs us that he received the Order in Toronto, Canada, in the year 1818; that in 1820 he removed to Vincennes, in this State, where he still resides. On arriving at Vincennes he found Companion James T. Moffet acting High Priest of what is now Vincennes Chapter, No. 7, upon the registry of our own Grand Chapter, and in possession of the Order of High Priesthood. About 1825 Lorenzo Dow came to Vincennes, and after visiting the Lodge for some time, applied for and was made a Royal Arch Mason in Vincennes Chapter, and was subsequently elected High Priest of the Chapter, when Companions Bishop and Moffet conferred the Order of the High Priesthood on him.

“This very satisfactorily explains how Companion Dow came in possession of the Order, but leaves the manner as well as the time that Companion Moffet received it, wholly in the dark; and as Companion Moffet has several years since passed away, and left upon record nothing that we know of by which we could arrive at a satisfactory solution of the matter, it must therefore be left wholly to conjecture.

“It is well known that in 1818 our then acting Grand Master Alexander Buckner, invited Thomas Smith Webb to visit and instruct the several Lodges then at work in this State in his particular mode of work; that in the summer or fall of that year John Snow came, and in a most satisfactory manner performed the duties required of him. But as the Chapter at Vincennes was not organized until after the 13th day of May, 1820, Companion Moffett could not have received the Order from Companion Snow, unless he had served as High Priest at some other point before removing to Vincennes.

“From the Private Journal of Companion Webb, as also

from the proceedings of the General Grand Chapter, we learn that on the 8th day of May, 1818, Webb, as Deputy General Grand High Priest, issued charters for the formation of Royal Arch Chapters at Madison and Brookville, in this State, the first of which is still at work and known on the registry of our Grand Chapter as Madison Chapter, No. 1. Now, it is more than probable that the organization of these Chapters was what brought Companion Snow to Indiana in the summer of 1818, as before stated, at which time Companion Moffett may have been present and in some way, being entitled to it, did then receive the Order from Companion Snow.

“ Be these things as they may, the conferring of the Order upon Companion Dow by Companions Bishop and Moffett in 1825, is the first positive assurance we have of the Order being conferred within the bounds of our State; and the two or three upon whom Companion Dow may have conferred it, doubtless constituted the entire work that was done in this State until after the anti-Masonic persecution—which arose soon after that time—had passed away; for we all know that during the ten years from 1826 to 1836, while that storm raged, the Craft in this jurisdiction quietly rested upon their oars until the storm had ceased.

“ We have no further records or knowledge of the Order having been conferred within our State until during the Communication of the Grand Chapter on the 26th day of May, 1848, when a Council of High Priests was held, presided over by Companion Samuel Reed, of Ohio, when Caleb Schmidlapp, Alex. C. Downey, Henry C. Lawrence and C. S. Ramsey, were duly admitted to the Order. Again in 1849 and 1850 these informal Councils were held and several others admitted to the Order. This finished the work of our Order in this State until the session of the Grand Chapter in 1853, when, on the 19th day of May, a Council was again held, and the Order duly conferred upon ten Companions, your present presiding officer being one of that number.

“ At this meeting of the High Priests the necessary preliminary steps were taken, and our present Council of High Priests for the State of Indiana was duly organized, and a code of rules adopted for its government. These rules were revised and a Code of By-Laws adopted by the Council, May 17th, 1859. From thenceforth our progress has been steady and constant, until now we find our Order of Priesthood second in character, popularity and usefulness to no other department in our Mystic Rite.

"Before closing, I wish to place upon record, for your information, as also for the information of those who may come after us, that—as some of you already know—the ritual work we have been using in our Council for the past sixteen years, was obtained by myself from the ritual of Companion John Snow; and I was assured at the time, and still believe, was the original work as adopted by the General Grand Chapter, in 1799, slightly modified or changed by Companion Snow, so that it might be separately censured from the installation ceremonies. Be this as it may, however, with the ritual we have been using these past years, the Order has steadily increased and become exceedingly popular with our Companions, and deservedly so, too, as you all have fully realized.

"Then, in conclusion, my Companions, let me exhort you, as you value your honor as men and as Masons, as you prize the purity and permanency of the Order, that under no circumstances whatever, you permit innovations to be made or fancies brought in to mar the beauty and solemnity of the Order; but preserve inviolate every pledge you have made, and perform with fidelity every duty imposed by our solemn ceremonies, that when the sun of life is fast declining beyond the horizon and but a few sands remaining in your glass, each may with confidence look up to our GREAT HIGH PRIEST, who has entered into the Heavens for us, and from His hands receive a glorious welcome into everlasting life.

"So mote it be.

"WILLIAM HACKER,

"*M. E. President of the Council of High Priests of Indiana.*"

Companion ALEXANDER THOMAS, (elected,) *Grand High Priest.*

Companion JOHN M. BRAMWELL, (re-elected,) *Grand Secretary.*

IOWA.

The Twentieth Annual Convocation was held in the city of Des Moines, October 23, 1873. Companion E. A. Guilbert, Most Excellent Grand High Priest, who, by the way, seems to be a most efficient officer, in his address recites a case, which we quote in full, which meets our view exactly; and we give the space the more willingly as we think the question of jurisdictional rights should receive general attention and be

definitely and generally settled. It is one of the most important, in our opinion, that is now left open, and by frequent discussion we may arouse attention and get the Secretaries of Chapters posted, so that we may be spared the mortification of frequent violations of jurisdictional rights.

"Among the instances in which the powers vested in the Grand High Priest have been brought into positive use, I note one, as it involved a jurisdictional question of a grave character.

"An Iowa man, resident for years in an interior city, removes to the State of New York. In a Lodge, seated on the banks of the Hudson river, he is made a Mason. Soon thereafter he applies to the Chapter and is rejected. Twice he repeats the application, and as often is rejected. After a few months have passed he returns to his former home in Iowa, ostensibly to remain, but does not demit from the New York Lodge. He had grown from boyhood to manhood in the Iowa city, and was generally and favorably known to its Masons. Shortly after his return he consults the High Priest of the Chapter with reference to taking the degrees, frankly stating that he had been rejected in the New York Chapter. The High Priest, who is most competent and intelligent, examined the Grand Chapter statutes, but found them to be utterly silent on this important jurisdictional question. Therefore, deeming his right to do so unquestionable, he received the Brother's petition, regarding him to be one who would prove to be a decided acquisition to his membership. The Chapter, coinciding with the High Priest, in due season elected the Brother and conferred on him the degrees. Not long after his exaltation the Companion again changed his residence, returning to the Hudson river city aforesaid. He there made himself known as a Royal Arch Mason, whereupon the New York Chapter justly feeling aggrieved, the High Priest thereof wrote our High Priest, asking if the Companion had actually been exalted in the Iowa Chapter, and if so, why our subordinate had thus invaded *their* jurisdictional rights?

"To this letter our High Priest promptly and courteously responded, acknowledging the fact, and explaining the wherefore by saying that the party was eminently worthy, and that as our Grand Chapter was silent on the points involved, and especially as older Masons in his Chapter had sanctioned his view of the matter, he thought he had undoubted right to the material of the New York Chapter, and accordingly had used

it. Not deeming this answer satisfactory, a statement of the case, embracing the correspondence, was laid before the accomplished Thos. C. Cassidy, Grand High Priest of Royal Arch Masons in New York, and his interference invoked. That official immediately wrote me, enclosing the papers in the case, making formal complaint against our Chapter, and asking at my hands "that redress and Masonic justice so justly due under the circumstances." At once I addressed our High Priest, summarizing the facts, which were fully set forth in the documents submitted to me, and concluding with this edict, which is founded upon my well-conceived opinion that Chapter jurisdiction in *any* case, and, therefore, more especially in a case like that in question, *follows a rejected Brother wherever he may go*. My edict was worded thus :

"I enjoin it upon you, Companion — High Priest, of — Chapter, No. —, that you convene your Chapter within three days after the receipt hereof; then to read this edict and thereafter to cause the same to be spread upon your records. You will then cause to be presented, passed, and recorded, a resolution addressed to — Chapter, No. —, New York, disclaiming doing them intentional wrong in this matter, asking pardon for the offence, expressing a willingness to pay over to that Chapter the moneys wrongfully received for the degrees conferred on the party in dispute, and tendering that Chapter the Masonic control of the Companion thus improperly exalted. You will at once send me a transcript, under the seal of the Chapter, of the proceedings had at the special convocation aforesaid, and will forward the specified resolution to — Chapter, No. —, New York. Herein fail not."

"Promptly and cheerfully was this edict obeyed, very much to the credit of our live Chapter, and greatly to my gratification. The result was that the New York Chapter, not willing to be outdone in magnanimity, accepted the *amende honorable*, declined to receive the fee, and refused to assume Masonic control over the party, who remains, though still a resident of New York, a member of the Iowa Chapter.

"As succinctly as it was possible for me to do, I have stated this case, and I submit that our Grand Chapter owes it to itself to place among its general regulations an article which shall unequivocally affirm this principle of Masonic law and comity, viz. :

"That Chapter jurisdiction is not limited by a rejected candidate's change of residence, but that it follows him where-

ever he may sojourn. That in order fully to secure obedience to this rule, applicants for degrees shall be required to state in their petitions whether or not, at any time before, they have been rejected by a Chapter, and, if so, requiring them further to give the name and locality of the rejecting Chapter, so that its permission may be sought as condition precedent to action on said petition.

"By such an enactment the Grand Chapter will show that in *practice*, as really as in *theory*, she is determinedly opposed to the use by one Chapter of material to which another Chapter has acquired a title in a legitimate, and *therefore* in a Masonic way, until the transfer of said title has been duly solicited and formally granted, and the 'enabling act' properly 'signed, sealed, and *delivered*.'"

From many decisions made by the Grand High Priest, all of them interesting, we clip the following :

"*Query.* We recently elected a Brother to receive the degrees in our Chapter, and have already made him a Most Excellent Master. Companions—many of them—do not think him a proper person to be exalted; still we have not sufficient grounds on which to base charges against him. Has a Companion the right to demand another ballot in this case to determine whether or not the party shall be exalted?"

"*Answer.* Yes. Any Companion has the right to demand, at a regular Convocation, a ballot at any stage during the progress of a candidate from degree to degree. But consider, is such a course Masonic? Only recently you unanimously elected a Brother who must have been well known to you. You have already given him *three* degrees, in part fulfillment of your contract to give him *four*; and for the four degrees you have already received payment. You have not, as you state, sufficient grounds on which to base charges against him; *therefore*, you simply *suspect* the Brother to be unworthy—you do not *know* this to be the fact. Do you think, on reflection, that this is the right course to pursue?"

From which we most respectfully dissent.

We should judge the practice in Iowa to be the same as ours in the form of petition, and the above case would show evidently that the Brother was found worthy to receive all the capitular degrees, and he paid therefor. *He asked for all the degrees.* You received his petition, referred it to a committee, who took a month or more to inquire into his character; and

finally you balloted for and approved him. He was accepted in full, and part of the degrees conferred upon him. Now would it be right to allow an objection to stop his further advancement? Should he then be stopped, it ought to be only for cause and charges preferred, and if found guilty, he should be punished.

The following we do not fully understand, but note it as being very curious:

“Companion Lyman presented the following preamble and resolution, which was, on motion, referred to the Committee on Jurisprudence :

“WHEREAS, It has come to the knowledge of this Grand Chapter that Companion E. L. Grubb, Grand Scribe and Most Excellent High Priest of Montgomery Chapter, No. 57, admitted to a Lodge of Past Master Masons, a Brother who had never taken any of the Chapter degrees, because he had taken the degrees of the Scottish Rite; therefore,

“*Resolved*, That it is the sense of this Grand Chapter, that Companion Grubb should be, and he hereby is, censured therefor.”

The following we think right, and hope some time to have the same in our jurisdiction :

“*Ordered*, That the future Reports of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence be submitted to the Most Excellent Grand High Priest for examination, before being printed, and that, as soon as the same shall be approved by that officer, and before the meeting of the Grand Chapter, it shall be put into print by the Grand Secretary in time for the use of the members of the Grand Chapter at its succeeding Convocation.”

The Report on Correspondence was again by Companion U. D. Taylor. From his review of California, we clip the following :

“In common with other States, a copy of the standard work, in full, is committed to the care of the Grand High Priest, and is by him transmitted to his successor with the seal and other effects peculiar to the office. We here regard it as of importance to have such a copy in the possession of him who is the conservator of the work in this jurisdiction, and have no doubt but that even in the vastly enlightened and remarkably pure Masonry of California, similar works might be found, even in

unauthorized hands, on 'strict examination.' Companion Wiggin is at fault, singular as it may seem, in his allusion to Czar Jones, of Michigan. *That* party was expelled, not for writing the work, but for copying a work extant in Michigan, with the avowed and *advertised* intention of selling the same to any one in any State who claimed to be a Royal Arch Mason. The Grand Lodge of Michigan has such a standard copy of its work in its archives, and no doubt the Grand Chapter has also. Those bodies have not thought it necessary to apologize therefor when intermeddlers have caviled thereat; nor do we. While we regret most poignantly that our course does not please Companion Wiggin, it is altogether probable that we shall *keep* and *use* the book in question."

We think Companion Taylor will find it hard work to convince the Royal Arch Fraternity that it is right, proper, or creditable to have such a work in any manner or form. It is inconsistent with our duty as Masons to have or countenance such a work. It is dangerous to the Fraternity to set such an example, and we think far above all, we transgress upon that duty as E. A., we fully subscribe to. The argument in the above, is very like special pleading, and to say that, because in California some unauthorized person may have such a thing, does not make it right for Iowa; for to our mind, when you make the book the sin is committed, and when once the book is made, there ends all distinction between authorized and unauthorized. *One person has as much right to it as another.*

The following, in his review of Pennsylvania, we quote in full :

"In justice to himself, and by permission of Companion Taylor, Companion Langridge would say, that 'circumstances alter cases, and that a word may sound badly in one connection that is entirely admissible in another. When he wrote the phrase objected to, he was answering properly an article of Companion Hyneman, and did not expect that what was mere badinage, and that too in a periodical, and therefore *light reading*, would be honored by getting into such staid company as is to be found in Grand Chapter Proceedings at all, and much less so largely as it appears to have done. Moreover, the temptation that besets one frequently to say a scarcely admissible thing, because 'smart' or antithetical, must be

partly his excuse. But leaving out all this, and with all affectionate respect for Pennsylvania and her good Companions, he can only say that if he had changed the word 'spiteful' into 'exclusive,' while he might have done injustice to the ancient Sarah, he does not think that the most zealous Pennsylvanian could have found fault with him. For probably it has never occurred to Companion Kelly that, until within a year or two past, Pennsylvania has been noted for her 'jealousy' of outside interference and outside customs, and has practiced a spirit of Chinese 'exclusiveness,' in Masonic Correspondence, that has annoyed and really angered many zealous Companions of other jurisdictions. Until since the advent of Companion Meyer to prominence in Grand Chapter affairs, it was almost useless to attempt to obtain even the scantiest courtesy from a Pennsylvanian Grand Official; and as for obtaining a knowledge of Pennsylvanian Masonic polity, it was a thing not to be thought of; so that Companion Drummond said justly when, in 1869, after tracing out as far as he, with his boundless zeal and excellent opportunities could do, her Masonic system, he exclaimed: 'There, Companions of Pennsylvania! we have given 'outside barbarians' more information about you than you yourselves have ever given!' And all that he gave was contained in a little over two octavo pages of leaded brevier!

"So, Companion Kelly, do not feel aggrieved that out of the whole 'Webster's unabridged,' one improper word slipped into a controversial article, though it must be confessed that it is not a handsome one; and for any injustice and wrong the writer craves pardon, assuring you that he had no design of reflecting, in any way or degree, on your Grand Chapter, for which he entertains only profound respect. And still the fault was not all his. If Pennsylvania had been, as the other Masonic bodies were, frank to communicate 'what was proper to be written,' and her Grand Officers (the only parties with whom we outsiders come in contact), 'as ready to give as we were (*anxious*) to receive information,' the case would have been different. But, with this much of defence and explanation, and with no design to lecture, we hope to be forgiven for this as well as our greater sins, rejoicing that a new generation has come to the fore, and that with increasing years wiser counsels have prevailed; so that now we look nowhere with greater confidence of receiving courtesy than from Pennsylvania, and among no Masons should be more proud to be received as a friend than there."

After carefully reading the above, we can frankly say, we are sorry Companion Langridge did not stop at the word *excuse*. He would then have done a graceful and proper thing ; but, unfortunately, the "*temptation beset him to say scarcely admissible things again, because smart*," and we think he has done himself injustice. So far as his criticism applies to the Reports on Correspondence during a number of years, we do not complain of the word "exclusive," as used, for we think our able predecessors held views with regard to Correspondence not compatible with the times. Ours are different, and our Grand Chapter fully sustains them, or at least has done so; thus far ; but the word "jealous," Companion Langridge, is out of place in the way you use it, and should be offensive to you, as a bright Royal Arch Mason, as well as to us. It is a fact conceded by all reporters in the Guild, that while the reports of Correspondence should be full, yet they are by no means the exponents of the views and doings of the Grand Chapter that issues them, as witness the following from Iowa:

Proceedings of Oct. 23, 1873, page 37 and 38.

"Companion O. H. P. Roszell, from a special committee to whom was referred an inquiry, presented the following report:

"To the Most Excellent Grand Chapter of the State of Iowa:

"Your special committee, to whom were referred the reports of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence for the years 1872 and 1873, respectfully report that we have examined said reports with care, and that we find in them many things that we cannot approve, and not a few, especially in that for the year 1872, which we can but condemn.

"Your committee see, with regret, that in both the said reports our Companion, whose ability marked him as worthy the honorable position of Committee on Foreign Correspondence, has allowed a natural and laudable desire to make his report readable, to seduce him into the occasional use of language as unworthy of his talent and scholarly attainments, as of the dignity of the Grand Chapter.

"Your committee are especially pained to find in the report of 1872, several expressions which are apparently intended as aspersions upon the motives and honor of a Companion in this Grand Chapter, whom the Masons of Iowa and elsewhere

delight to honor, and whose whole life sheds lustre upon the 'Royal Craft.'

"Your committee take pleasure in calling the attention of the Grand Chapter to the closing paragraph of the report of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence for 1873, and the true, manly, and Masonic spirit therein manifested, constrains us to believe that the Companion will gladly concur in the following resolutions, the adoption of which we recommend :

"*Resolved*, That we emphatically disapprove of any and all expressions of our Committee on Foreign Correspondence, published in the report of said committee, in disparagement of the character and motives of a Companion and member of this Grand Chapter.

"*Resolved*, That in future, no report of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence shall be published until the same shall have been read and approved in open Grand Chapter, or by a committee of at least three Companions, appointed for that purpose.

O. H. P. ROSZELL,
J. LYMAN,
J. M. SHAFFER,
Committee."

The attempt, therefore, to put our Grand Chapter in a ridiculous position for lack of long reports on Correspondence, in view of the above, we submit, is not generous.

With regard to Pennsylvania polity, we distinctly assert that our proceedings always reported all our actions in our Grand Chapter,—all—everything—every time. We may have been guilty of doing but little, because but little was required of us, but we certainly reported everything we did, and we trust no Grand Chapter reported more.

Next, as to the reflection of "scant courtesy," on the part of our Grand Officials, we certainly think Companion Langridge is laboring under a mistake, and unless an actual offence is reported, we shall claim that our position is correct, for during the ten years we have been a member of the Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania, we know of no instance of a Grand Officer being elected whose reputation for kindness and courtesy can be in the slightest impeached.

And we have no doubt that Companion Drummond, in

1869, "after tracing out as far as he, with his boundless zeal and excellent opportunities could do, her Masonic system, exclaimed," &c., did so, we think, because of a slight attack of the "temptation smart," that, unfortunately, frequently attacks us reporters in our labors.

KENTUCKY..

The Fifty-eighth Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter of Kentucky, was held in the city of Louisville, October 20, 1873, Most Excellent Companion William Regan, Grand High Priest, presiding. From his address we clip the following:

"I have visited very few of the Subordinate Chapters during my term of office, although urgently invited by some to visit them. I have in most instances forborne to visit, for the reason that it was extremely unsatisfactory to me to do so, in view of the fact of the great want of uniformity in the work in our jurisdiction, the Grand Chapter having authoritatively prescribed no uniform work for the guidance of its subordinates. This is a great evil, from which the Chapters are suffering much, and which in the past has been a source of very serious detriment to them. Such a state of things should be allowed to exist no longer."

We most earnestly repeat, *such a state of things should be allowed to exist no longer.* But alas, the announcing of such an excellent doctrine does not in the least remedy the defect. And it often happens that when we have wound ourselves up to a declaration with a fine sonorous period, we fold our hands and imagine our duty done, and leave to our successors the real work of reformation.

In our judgment, the above paragraph proclaims the wrong, and at the same time the cause of the wrong. For instance (and we submit it with all deference, Most Excellent Grand High Priest), suppose you were to visit your Chapters, see the work as performed by your Subordinate Chapters, point out the defects from your standpoint, and teach them your work, do you not think you could secure uniformity of work? Even though it might not be what your Grand Chapter would eventually sanction, still it would be uniform, and at least

half the battle would be won. But to have such a slipshod way of doing as not to have a standard, either right or wrong, seems to us to leave such a latitude for abominations to creep in as would really bring the work to such a degree, as to disgust most intelligent Royal Arch Masons, who would not have the power to correct the evil, as you have.

Brother H. A. M. Henderson, from a special committee, made an eloquent report on the death of Companion Charles Stewart Todd, formerly Grand Secretary of the Grand Chapter of Kentucky. The Grand Chapter of that State, is certainly fortunate in the membership she was and is possessed of. No other jurisdiction can exceed, and but few compete with her, in distinguished, honorable and able members.

The Committee on Finance report her assets at \$11,572.52, a very creditable balance sheet. The committee, however, go on to show that she lost \$437.11 during the last year, and characterizes it as a startling fact. And we think it is ; and only notice it here to call attention, so far as we can, to the danger of allowing receipts to fall below expenditures in any of our Grand Bodies. We think the greatest care should be taken in all cases to spend no more than we receive, and to strain every nerve to save a little each year. One is safety, comfort, content ; the other, risk, worry and embarrassment.

The following resolution was adopted :

“Resolved, That the Grand Chapter of Kentucky resume its relation to the General Grand Chapter of the United States, and that the Grand High Priest, Grand King and Grand Scribe, be instructed to attend the next Triennial Session, with credentials furnished under the seal of the Grand Chapter, and instructions to consummate our union with that Body.”

The Report on Correspondence is again by Companion H. A. M. Henderson, and, like its predecessors, is a brilliant composition. We hope we shall have space for all the good things we have marked, but doubt it, as it would comprise nearly all of his report.

The following expresses our own feelings in examining the report :

“ The Committee on Foreign Correspondence have ex-

amined not less than five thousand printed pages of proceedings, with an eye single to items of interest to the Royal Craft within this jurisdiction. The perusal of so much matter, and the transcribing of that portion deemed fit for our purpose, would have been an oppressive task had we not been cheered at constantly recurring stages in our progress, by items of interest and evidences of Masonic virtue, and the progress of Capitular Masonry."

In his review of Kansas, we clip the following,—true, every word of it :

" Everywhere there is a revival of interest in our Institution. Our tables are covered with applications. We are liable to be misled or to be lax in our scrutiny of those who seek admission. We are open to imposition, not so much from cowans and eaves-droppers, as from the introduction of unworthy members.

" Let us not be deluded into the fearful mistake of estimating our prosperity by the multitude who may desire to join us. Let us seek to correct the errors of those already within the sanctuary, and to subjugate ourselves thoroughly to the sway of the noble principles of Brotherly Love, Faith, Hope, Charity, Fortitude, Patience, Truth and Relief. Thus, like loadstones, our Lodges and Chapters will attract to their bosom all who are worthy of a place in the lofty line of Ancient Masonry.

"Again we say, *see that the doors are tyled.*"

From his review of Maryland we clip the following, and think Maryland right and he wrong :

" Companions dismissed for non-payment of dues, can only be reinstated by regular petition and ballot.

" We have always understood that the payment of back dues reinstated a Companion to his previous standing. To subject him to a ballot is to put him where he was, *ab initio*, as a petitioner for the degrees. If he has had any difference with another Companion, he is subjected to the severest penalty his prejudices, secretly exercised, can visit upon him, if he chooses to employ the protest of his single ballot."

From his review of New York, we clip the following, and would here remark, that we think such actions as are described are the only parts of the Grand Representative System that are to be condemned, and hold that they may be reformed :

"The Representatiye farce was gone through with. The Grand High Priest resigned the chair, and together with Companions Simons, Chase, Day and Ferguson—accredited Representatives of several Grand Chapters *near* the Grand Chapter of New York—retired to the ante-room, and were then marched in and 'introduced and welcomed to the usual honors.' Children playing keeping-house and receiving visitors is funny, but Royal Arch Companions playing this comedy is simply ridiculous."

Pennsylvania receives fraternal notice at his hands. He advises that we should follow the practice adopted in Thibet, in lieu of our twelve Grand Chaplains, viz., tack our prayers on the wings of a wind-mill and count that at every revolution our devotions are said. Which, we suppose, is the way they do in Kentucky. Yet no wind-mill ever ground out such eloquent and beautiful composition as is to be found in Companion Henderson's Report, on pages 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15, and he is a Rev. who wrote it, too. We of course understand the joke, and would have let it pass unnoticed, but for the fact of it not being finished; and as an apology for Companion H., we tell our Companions that the reason of his making it, is because there are not so many Rev.'s in his State as we have Rev. Grand Chaplains, and he feels a little jealous, that's all. Accompanying the present report, is a view of the Widows' and Orphans' Home Seminary, as it will appear when completed—a noble charity and a noble monument of the earnestness and fidelity of our Brothers and Companions of Kentucky. We give our prayers for the blessing of Heaven upon the enterprise, and most sincerely trust no mishap may delay the completion of the magnificent charity. Those of the fraternity in this jurisdiction who may wish to examine the subject, will find a view of the building in their Proceedings in the Library of our new Masonic Temple.

LOUISIANA.

The Twenty-seventh Annual Grand Convocation was held in the city of New Orleans, February 10, 1874.

Companion Jos. P. Horner, Most Excellent Grand High

Priest, delivered an eloquent address, from which we extract the following :

“ I gladly welcome you in this our Tabernacle, to our Twenty-seventh Annual Grand Convocation, and trust that it shall be as pleasant and fraternal as any of our former re-unions. The lapse of another year requires that its history should be communicated to you, so far as the workings of Capitular Masonry in this jurisdiction are concerned, and while there has been very little of note to which it is necessary to call your attention, yet the most minute of our affairs demand your examination and approval. Since we parted last year, though we were then living in a state of great pecuniary embarrassment and of political turmoil and uncertainty, which mainly contributed to produce it, we have seen even more troublous times ; the evils which then seemed to be confined to our own section of country, and almost entirely to our own State, so far as financial matters were concerned, have since spread like a great tidal-wave over the whole country, and all the people have had trials and misfortunes, which it would be in vain to attempt to picture or describe ; calamity of every kind has sought all classes, and an untold amount of suffering has been endured ; from this state of affairs we are not yet finally rescued, and the still unsettled condition of our political matters, disturbing as it does all classes of industry and enterprise, compels us to fear that the end is not yet, and that further troubles are in store for us. But throughout all the distress that has and still surrounds us, the mission of Masonry has gone ever onward ; peace and fraternal love reign throughout our Chapters, and a noble disposition to help each other has manifested itself among our Companions to quite as great an extent as any former emergency ever called forth, and at this moment our institution is undepressed by any of its mournful surroundings, and shines forth with a brightness of character all its own. For this great mercy, Companions, let us give our heartfelt thanks to the Great Grand High Priest ‘ who doeth all things well,’ and humbly acknowledge His manifold kindness to us and to our works, and gladly render to Him ‘ all the power and the glory’ forever and ever. Amen.”

The following decision we commend to the Most Excellent Grand High Priests everywhere, as being safe, sensible and right :

“ 3d. That the Grand High Priest is not required to officially answer all questions of Masonic Law which may be

propounded to him by any Companion, and that it would be improper for him to do so. That official decisions should only be given upon actual cases as they arise, and when officially requested by formal action of a Subordinate Chapter by resolution, or by the High Priest thereof, or at his direction. This decision was elicited by a communication addressed to me by a Secretary of a Subordinate Chapter, under seal, but manifestly without authority, which contained more than a dozen questions on points of Masonic Law of the most primary character, and which I declined to answer officially."

Another decision we concur in, is as follows:

"4th. To the question, 'Is it in the power of a Chapter to forgive a Companion, who being entrusted with funds of the Chapter, to pay over to the Grand Chapter, embezzled them and put them to his own use, lied about them, and concealed himself by refusing to answer letters and surrender papers, and who now contritely acknowledges his crimes and pleads for mercy?' I replied, that it was certainly within the power of a chartered Chapter to do so, and for the members of a Chapter under dispensation, to refrain from preferring charges against such a Companion, but that such a course would require strict discipline, and I would, without hesitation, revoke the dispensation or arrest the charter of any Chapter so acting."

The following we copy entire, as a history of the most terrible scourge to which the inhabitants of that section of country was subjected, and which we in this more favored country are but too apt to soon forget:

"Report of the Masonic Board of Relief, Epidemic of A. D. 1873.

"On the 29th of August, 1873, an epidemic of yellow fever broke out in this place, more malignant in its features and more fatal in its results, than ever known before, within the zone to which this malady seems indigenous. On the 25th of August it was pronounced epidemic, and on the 3d of September the Howard Association was organized by the election of L. R. Simmons, President. This Association at once put itself in connection with the New Orleans Howards, and they—with the liberality characteristic of that well-known organization—requested us to make known our wants that they might supply them. Means were at once furnished, and subsequently physicians and nurses as required.

"The most experienced physicians of New Orleans and the best medical talent were sent to our aid. Drs. Choppin, Bruns, and Davidson, among others, and these gentlemen, on their return to New Orleans, made a report of their labors, and the result of their investigation, as to the cause of the malady—a fearless, brief and pointed address—laying at the proper door the lamentable condition of the high-ways and by-ways of the city under its years of maladministration—a sad condition from which there appears to be no relief under the existing government. Out of a population of about ten thousand souls, six thousand fled from the scourge during the latter days of August, and of the remaining four thousand—in the latter days of September—fully one-half were disabled by sickness, and before the epidemic ceased in November, the mortuary reports from the Howards show a mortality of seven hundred and fifty-nine.

"There was a black line drawn around us by rigid quarantine—the mails stopped, and the only means of communicating with the outside world was the electric telegraph. This was generously placed at our service, and messages of sympathy and relief came to us from all quarters of this generous nation—true to the instincts of the Anglo-Saxon race. The Howards received most munificent donations—not only direct, but through our friends in New Orleans, contributions were sent to the Mayor of the city, to the Odd Fellows and the Hebrew Benevolent Association, in orders by wires on the banks here to pay. From none were the donations for relief more rapid or more generous than our own beloved, venerated and respected order—the Fraternity of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons, up to that time without an organized Board of Relief, to represent the several branches of the great Masonic family in this city. With no hope of getting—in such an hour of death and darkness—a sufficient number of brethren to open a Master's Lodge, Right Worshipful Brother John G. McWilliams, Master of Caddo Lodge, No. 179, appointed Right Worshipful Brother George A. Pike, a member of the Board, which the necessities of the time required to be organized—to receive and disburse the charities bestowed upon us. Past High Priest, S. M. Asher, High Priest of Shreveport Royal Arch Chapter No. 10, appointed Right Worshipful Brother McWilliams, and Brother Ben. Holzman, Worshipful Master of Shreveport Lodge No. 115, appointed Brother S. M. Asher. The Board of Relief was thus organized, and subsequent action of the different bodies, represented by these Brethren, con-

firmed their appointments. The amounts received by them, and the amounts disbursed—together with the sum still on hand at the date of this report, will be found elsewhere as a part of it. As far as it was possible so to do, the receipt of each contribution was acknowledged by Right Worshipful Brother Pike, Chairman of the Board, immediately it came to hand. The labor of this Committee would have been cramped and confined without the assistance of Most Worshipful Grand Master M. E. Girard, Right Worshipful John G. Fleming, Deputy Grand Master, and Right Worshipful Brother James C. Batchelor, Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Louisiana. They promptly sent to our relief a corps of experienced nurses, who labored with us to the end. Brother E. F. Schmidt, President of the New Orleans Howards, came and remained among us, doing valuable service during the pestilence, and to Brother Wm. S. Pike, Vice-President of the New Orleans Howards, our heartfelt thanks are due, for the prompt and generous manner in which he responded to the calls for relief from our suffering people. How can we express our gratitude to our Brethren abroad for their noble sympathy and assistance? How, with mere words, shall we give utterance to the emotions of our hearts, to assure them of the ties of love and affection with which we are bound to them, by such offerings on the altar of charity? How, but in a kindred sympathy for time to come, and practice of the noble tenets of our profession towards them, and towards all mankind! Verily is it that a touch of pity makes the world akin, and under the influence of Heaven-blessed charities bestowed with a lavish hand upon us, have we been made to feel that we are temporary sojourners in the temple dedicated to humanity, and what we call 'ours' is theirs, and the common property of all, to be dispensed by the angels of mercy of our Supreme Grand Master.

"There is no loss to us that may not be repaired, save that of our Brethren—those who have gone from among us—those who are leveled a second time, to be raised and exalted hereafter according to merit. Who can supply their vacant places in the work yet to be done? Who present the perfect ashler to adorn our temple on earth, from which they have been called from labor? Look at the list. To the stranger—mere names. To us—our Brethren, whose noble spirits were known to us. They who labored side by side against the yellow-visaged King of Terrors, and sealed their service with their lives! Shall we not clothe our Lodge with sable weeds—

drape pillar and column to the right and left, to remind us of their virtues, and the fearful ravages of death among us, that these mementoes may teach us in our daily vocations of the uncertainty of life, and the importance of 'Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth,' that when its fitful fever is over, we may be prepared for that temple not made with hands, where presides our Supreme Grand Master."

Then follows a list of subscriptions, &c.

The report on Correspondence is again by Companion Jos. P. Horner, who although elected and re-elected Grand High Priest, has been unanimously requested to serve as Chairman, showing that Companion Horner has got the hearts of his Companions in his work, and right well does he deserve it. In his review of Kansas, he says as follows in reference to the following:

"Resolved, That we will not recognize the Grand Chapter of West Virginia, because it refuses to acknowledge the authority of the General Grand Chapter.

"We are sorry that the reasons which led to this course of action were not given more explicitly, and that we are unable to hear the arguments that were brought forward to produce the result effected. The Grand Chapter of Kansas recognizes and is in fraternal correspondence with the Grand Chapters of Pennsylvania, Virginia, Texas, Alabama, and others in the United States of America, which no more recognizes the General Grand Chapter of the United States than the Grand Chapter of West Virginia does; and if a system of coercion is going to be commenced with West Virginia, the Grand Chapters of the other non-affiliating States will have just cause to fear that it will be extended to them in order to force them to join the National Grand Body. Self-preservation will naturally suggest to them that they must stand by their sister Grand Chapter of West Virginia, and refuse recognition to those who deny it to her, and thus form common cause against the Grand Chapter of Kansas first, directly, and indirectly, against all the other Grand Chapters recognizing the authority of the General Grand Chapter. In other words, the above action of Grand Chapter of Kansas is a declaration of war made by a Subordinate State Grand Chapter without the authority of its sovereign. If the Grand Chapter of Kansas is going to take upon itself to refuse recognition to another Grand Chapter in the United States for any reason whatever, it might as well

send in its resignation of membership to the General Grand Chapter at once. It has been demonstrated beyond the possibility of a doubt, as plainly as a mathematical proposition, that the General Grand Chapter has no power to force obedience to its dictates or to control any of its own members, and it is not probable that more power will ever be granted to it. We see no reason why the Grand Chapter of West Virginia should not at once pass resolutions of non-intercourse with the Grand Chapter of Kansas, and, subsequently, with all Grand Chapters recognizing the Grand Chapter of Kansas, in case the above action we have noticed is persisted in. Upon the whole, we think the action alluded to, although the result of a year's labors in consideration of a committee, has been adopted inadvisedly and without regard to the consequences which must inevitably result from it. Our Grand Chapter has recognized the Grand Chapter of West Virginia, as many other Grand Chapters in the United States have done. It was formed out of the territory of the Grand Chapter of Virginia, a Grand Chapter which never belonged to the General Grand Chapter, but with which we have always been in fraternal relations. We can see no reason why our recognition should have been refused. Should the Grand Chapter of West Virginia call upon us to determine whether we would continue in friendly relations with it or the Grand Chapter of Kansas, by what rule should we be governed in our course of decision? If we are to be governed by the rules of righteousness, we certainly think we would have to decide that the Grand Chapter of West Virginia having been legally formed, the objection of the Grand Chapter of Kansas was captious, unwarranted and of no weight. We trust the resolution will be repealed. It certainly can neither be amended nor acted upon in any way by the General Grand Chapter at the peril of the existence of that Grand Body."

Pennsylvania receives fraternal notice at his hands, and we quote the following:

"At the installation of officers, we perceive that all but Past High Priests, who had received the order of High Priesthood, retired while the Grand High Priest was installed, for which action we are at a loss to find a reason."

Because our installation ceremonies embrace that which none but those who have received the Order of High Priesthood should witness.

Companion JOSEPH POTTS HORNER, *Most Excellent Grand High Priest.*

Companion J. C. BACHELOR, *Most Excellent Grand Secretary.*

KANSAS.

The Ninth Annual Convocation was held in the City of Lawrence, October 14, 1873, Companion Edwin D. Hillyer, M. E. Grand High Priest, presiding.

“ Masonic virtue is practical, not formal ; it welcomes as its assistants whatever extends the power and promotes the happiness of humanity. If it does not direct our conduct and inspire our lives, we are false to our obligations, and hypocrites in the sanctuary ; to be real it must not only manifest itself in words, it must also inspire the heart.

“ Superstition insists that morality and virtue is inseparable from dogmatic faith ; but this association of dogma and zeal invariably culminates in such scenes as were presented in the Crusades, the massacre of St. Bartholomew and the martyrdom of Micaud Servetus.

“ Masonry, on the contrary, recognises and honors virtue wherever found, and knowledge by whomsoever taught. The golden rule of Confucius, the sublime devotion to Mohammed, and the all-pervading ‘ Peace on earth and good will to man ’ of the Christian revelation, each contribute their quota to the enlightenment and civilization of the race.”

Also the following :

“ I issued but few dispensations under the resolution of the Grand Chapter concerning substitutes. I am emphatically of the opinion that the power to grant a dispensation permitting any Masonic act which the written or unwritten laws of Masonry otherwise forbid, should be used with caution. It is an extraordinary power, and should be exercised only upon extraordinary occasions, and invariably when the good of the Order required the indulgence, and not individual convenience.”

Strike out the words “used with caution,” and insert, “should never be used at all ;” and then the above would suit us.

The special committee to whom was referred the subject of recognition of the Grand Chapter of Virginia, after consideration of one year, reported as follows :

“ Your special committee appointed at the last Annual

Convocation to take into consideration the question of recognizing the Grand Chapter of West Virginia, respectfully report, that we have carefully considered the subject in all its bearings, and, while we would not willingly do anything which would in the least tend to sever the friendly relations which should everywhere exist among the Royal Craft, we are in this case compelled, by the respect we owe the General Grand Chapter, to dissent from the views expressed by our esteemed Companions of West Virginia in the organization of a Grand Chapter. In their present attitude we cannot consistently welcome them into the great family of Grand Chapters. We, therefore, offer the following:

"Resolved, That this Grand Chapter hails with pleasure the apparent increasing prosperity of Royal Arch Masonry in West Virginia, and that we will most cordially extend to their newly organized Grand Chapter a hearty welcome among the family of Grand Chapters, whenever they shall place themselves under the fostering care of the General Grand Chapter, or whenever they shall have been duly recognized by that Grand Body.

"Fraternally submitted,

E. T. CARR,
JOHN M. PRICE,
Committee.

"Companion Carr moved the adoption of the Report, which led to a general discussion of the question. After the suggestion of various modifications by the different Companions, M. E. Owen A. Bassett, Past Grand High Priest, offered the following amendment, which, after considerable discussion, was adopted:

"Resolved, That we will not recognize the Grand Chapter of West Virginia, because it refuses to acknowledge the authority of the General Grand Chapter."

We gave the remarks of Companion Horner, of Louisiana, on the above subject in our notice of that jurisdiction, and frankly say we do not entirely approve of them; because we are of the opinion that West Virginia is not entirely clear of blame. We did not think it called for, for that jurisdiction to go out of its way to unduly censure the General Grand Chapter, and hence in the *report* of the committee, the views expressed by them, in the first paragraph, we think right, but when it comes to the point of not recognizing them until they

shall be recognized by the General Grand Chapter, we think with all deference, you get down to a level below that which the General Grand Chapter will not thank you for. But when you pass a resolution like the one adopted, we think you descend to the very abyss of absurdity, because we think we know the feeling of the General Grand Chapter well enough to predict that at Nashville, they will fully recognize the Grand Chapter of West Virginia, and then what are you going to do? We most sincerely trust, Companions, you will rescind the the above resolution, and pass one recognizing her and let us all go along smoothly once more.

The Report on Foreign Correspondence is again by Companion E. T. Carr, and as usual is first-rate.

In his review of Arkansas' nomination for offices, he says:

"Now, this may all appear very well to our Arkansas Companions, but is very objectionable to us. The practice of making nominations has ever been declared "out of order" in all Masonic bodies in Kansas. Let each cast his ballot for the Companion of his choice, provided he be eligible, and no harm can come of it. Don't go after strange gods, Companions."

Our practice exactly.

In his review of Connecticut, he says:

"On the question of special dispensation, to confer Degrees out of the time, we think about as you do, Companion Lewis, that generally it is 'either carelessness or impatient curiosity which prompts the request,' but no Grand High Priest would ever grant the request based upon any such statement; hence, it must, in some way, be covered up by a plea of emergency. If there is a *real* emergency, we say it is a misfortune to the applicant, and we should not charge for the dispensation; if there is not, do not grant the dispensation; and if no dispensations are granted, so much the better."

Sound, every word of it.

Companion JOHN M. PRICE, *Grand High Priest.*

Companion E. T. CARR, *Grand Secretary.*

MAINE.

The Forty-ninth Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter of Maine was held in the City of Portland, May 5, 1874, Companions Horace E. Burbank, M. E. Grand High Priest. The Grand High Priest in his address, quietly remarks :

“October 30, I visited Oriental Chapter, Bridgton, and inspected work in the Most Excellent Mark and Royal Arch degrees. I was informed, by way of an apology for what the Companions felt to be unskilled work, that no Grand Officer had been among them for three years. I found imperfections, the most of which I can but think would have been wanting, had Grand visitations been regularly made.”

And we are sure he is right, our own personal experience has been of a nature to convince us that the best teacher that can be found in our Chapters is the M. E. Grand High Priest and his officers. The members feel an interest and a pride to make a creditable showing when they know they are to be visited by the Grand Officers and when the visit takes place, the intelligence of the Grand Officers, the care taken to impart instruction, the interest manifested by all who take part in those delightful meetings, leaves an impression not soon forgotten and which enures largely to the benefit of the Chapters visited both in number of applications for membership, also in quality of the work done by their officers.

The following we insert entire, as a matter of information, and when it is known that Companion J. H. Drummond, Grand High Priest of the General Grand Chapter of the United States, was the chairman of the committee, it will command respect. As the matter that gave rise to the report is plainly visible in the conclusions of the committee, we do not give further explanation :

“In the absence of the High Priest, his powers and duties devolve upon the King, and he becomes High Priest, for the time being, with the same prerogatives as an actual High Priest. We find no distinction between the powers, &c., of an *installed* High Priest, and those of an *acting* High Priest for the time being. It follows, therefore, that when the King or Scribe is properly acting as High Priest, he may call a special meeting of the Chapter.

"The circumstances and duration of temporary absence are so variable that no definite rule can be given. A High Priest may be gone on a voyage at sea for the greater part of his term, without removing *permanently* from the jurisdiction; under the decision no special meeting could be called during his absence; on the other hand, if the High Priest should be absent for two days, it would certainly be an invasion of his prerogative for the officer next in rank to call a special meeting to perform the ordinary business of the Chapter; and yet a sudden emergency might arise in which it would be necessary to have a special meeting, during a *very short* absence of the High Priest, which the next officer must necessarily call. From these considerations, it is evident that the *absence* of the High Priest *gives the power* to the King (and the absence of both to the Scribe), the exercise of which would be proper in some cases and improper in other cases. In such cases the officer must exercise the power in good faith *at his discretion*, subject to his accountability for any abuse of it to the governing body.

"The only rule that can be given is :

"No *special* meeting of a Chapter can be called by any other officer than the High Priest, save in his absence; when he is absent the next officer (of the Council) in rank has the power to call special meetings, whenever, in his judgment, the emergency demands it; but he is accountable for any improper exercise of the power."

The report on correspondence is again by Companion Stephen J. Young, and reviews the proceedings of thirty-two Grand Chapters, Pennsylvania among the number. In his review of Delaware, he says :

"The Grand Chapter refused a seat to Past Grand High Priest, G. W. Chaytor, on the ground that the present Grand Chapter is a new organization, and as such recognizes no rights of members of the previous one. This seems to us like splitting hairs, and consequently unworthy of such a body as the Grand Chapter of Delaware."

In his review of Pennsylvania, he says :

"The Grand Bodies of that State are literally *exclusive*, for they *excluded* us from the Temple, in spite of all reasonable requests on our part, and informed us that even an order from the Grand Master would not procure us admittance! The officials in charge, however, kindly permitted us to walk around it—*on the outside*. If we were Grand Master of Penn-

sylvania, we would either get our powers extended, or else exchange places with the ill-mannered man who sat in the Grand Secretary's office on that occasion."

We quote the above in full and hope that whoever may be referred to, will read the paragraph and be duly ashamed, for while there was evidently some kindness extended, as Companion Young says, in permitting him to walk around the outside, yet there was not enough to counterbalance the ill-manners he complains of. You are aware, however, Companion Young, that some of us are born to be great, and others to have greatness thrust upon them, and if we happen to be of the latter class, we are apt to be more great in our own estimation than otherwise. We are sorry to hear of any unkindness on the part of our people for, indeed and indeed, we try to teach them better. We are sorry to learn as follows:

"We have thus reviewed the proceedings which have been placed in our hands, not without the feeling that we were passing over many excellent things in the various reports, but our space and time are both limited. With this review we take our leave of the corps of reporters; and before making our final bow, we wish to thank them all for the kind words with which they received us, when, as a raw recruit, we made our first appearance in the ranks. We have enjoyed the labor; but other more pressing duties have obliged us to renounce it from henceforth, and a better man has consented, not so much to take our place, as to resume his own."

Companion HORACE E. BURBANK (re-elected,) *Grand High Priest.*

Companion IRA BERRY, (re-elected,) *Grand Secretary.*

MARYLAND.

The Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter of Maryland was held in the City of Baltimore, November 10, 1873. Companion George L. McCahan, M. E. Grand High Priest, says:

"The past year shows marked improvement in all that pertains to the Royal Craft in this jurisdiction, and gives great promise for the future. The Companions throughout the State, have, with few exceptions, exhibited such zeal and energy as calls for the highest commendation, and no reasonable doubt exists, that if the same liberal policy as at present

practised towards the Subordinate Chapters on the part of the Grand Body, is continued, that great and permanent good will result."

The following seems to be the practice in Maryland, which strikes us as rather queer, and which we think would be as well if left out, for if the Grand High Priest is competent to fill his position, he is the one who should make the appointments, and should take the responsibility of them ; if he is not competent he should not be elected :

"On motion of Companion Emmons, R. E. Grand King, the Senior Representative of the several Chapters present were requested to retire, and report nominations for the Subordinate Offices, they reported the following, which were confirmed by vote of the Grand Chapter."

The Report on Correspondence is again by H. L. Emmons, and reviews the proceedings of thirty-two Grand Chapters, Pennsylvania, 1872, being among the number, and gives us a very fraternal notice. Companion Emmons is crisp, clear and strong in his criticisms, manifestly fair in intentions and mostly sound in his views. Maryland, however, is in that happy state that leaves nothing to do but praise, and that stretched out too far sometimes becomes fulsome ; we are sincerely glad, however, that our Companions of that jurisdiction have so many evidences of prosperity, and so few causes of complaint.

Companion JAMES W. BOWEN, (elected,) *Grand High Priest.*
Companion WM. A. WENTZ, (elected,) *Grand Secretary.*

MISSOURI.

The Twenty seventh Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter of Missouri was held in the City of St. Louis, October 9, 1873. Companion James E. Carter, M. E. Grand High Priest, presiding. He delivered a brief address and record of official acts.

The Grand Chapter opened at 10 o'clock, A. M., and was called from labor until 2½ P. M.

In the report of the Committee on the Grand High Priest's address, a resolution appears, which was adopted, appropriating \$150 to the relief of our suffering Brethren of Memphis. Our

Companions of Missouri are always generously alive to the relief of the sufferings of the Craft, and ready to respond in a solid manner to the cry of distress.

The following from the Committee on Grievances, full of common sense, is quoted as a guide to any who may read this report:

Speaking of a Companion who had been expelled, says:

"He was not present, nor do we consider from the record that he waives the informalities of the charges. Your Committee regard them as entirely too vague and indefinite. When it is sought to take a man's Masonic life from him the charges and specifications should be specific and full, so as to fully apprise him of what he has to defend against."

The report (or rather the apology for a report) which is printed with this copy of proceedings has the name of George Frank Gouley signed at the end; but, alas, we do not recognize a line in the whole report that we can safely affirm to be Gouley's. We have an indistinct idea that in the years gone by, Companion Gouley wrote about Pennsylvania's Report on Correspondence, in 1871, "that it seemed to have been written with a pen dipped in tannic acid, and the whole thing is so shrunk up that it puts a fellow in mind of green persimmons—there is not enough palate left in it to even get a taste of what the writer intended to set before you—what we did get hold of was good, but there was not enough left to divide. Two bites of a cherry are not worth handing around for a feast."—See page 41 and 42, Proceedings of Grand Chapter of Missouri, 1872.

If Companion Gouley has become a convert to the doctrine he so determinedly complained of in us, we shall feel it a duty to try to re-convert him, and earnestly hope he will not put us on our mettle. We give his introduction, which we presume is also his excuse, and, lame as it is, we do not think it right to rob him of:

"I submit herewith my annual report on Foreign Correspondence, which will be brief, chiefly because I desire to condense the matter as much as possible, not only on the score of economy, but also out of deference to those who think the re-

ports on Correspondence generally are becoming too voluminous, and as most of our Companions have not had the opportunity of seeing a 'condensed report,' we think it no more than proper that they should have a chance to judge for themselves which style they prefer. Since 1865 we have been furnishing what are called 'full reports,' and this, therefore, will be an exception and a contrast. Some States prefer the one and some the other."

In the report of the Grand Lecturer, we find the following, which we should imagine would be a sweet morsel for the General Grand Chapter:

"At the last session of the General Grand Chapter of the United States, an important change was made in the ritual of the Royal Arch Degree. Deeming it our duty to submit to the edicts of that body, I have taught the work as amended. However this change may be viewed in other jurisdictions, to us in Missouri it is an innovation, and we have all consented to the proposition that 'it is not in the power of any man or body of men to make innovations in the body of Masonry.' The action of the General Grand Chapter appears to have been hasty and inconsiderate, and will probably be repealed at its next session. Until then we can wait. But let us not lose sight of the beautiful symbolism of the work as handed down by our fathers, and let us seize the earliest opportunity of restoring the work to its original purity and consistency."

Companion XENOPHON, REYLANCE, *Grand High Priest.*

Companion GEORGE FRANK GOULEY, *Grand Secretary.*

MINNESOTA.

The Twelfth Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter of Minnesota was held in the City of St. Paul, June 24, 1873. Companion J. H. McKinney, Grand High Priest, in his address, which, by the way, is good, reports the following:

"A question has arisen in North Star Chapter, No. 11, relative to its right to buy and control real estate for Masonic purposes, jointly with the Lodge at the same place. The proposition was that the two Orders should build a new hall, and own it jointly. The hall was built under the supervision of the Lodge, the Chapter furnishing part of the funds. Upon a final settlement it was proposed to deed to the Chapter a half interest in said hall upon its obligation to pay half the cost.

The proposition was deemed inexpedient on the part of the Chapter to become a party to a purchase, until the question of dealing in real estate should be passed upon by the Grand Chapter, and I respectfully submit the subject for such action as you may in your wisdom deem necessary and proper."

The following we extract and think is gratifying:

"The working of our Order during my term of office has been so perfect and harmonious, that my duties have been extremely light, and finds me, at the close of my term, with but little to suggest for the improvement of the healthy state of things now existing."

The following was adopted, and we think right:

"Resolved, That Chapters who fail to make returns to the Grand Secretary ten days prior to the Annual Convocation, shall be deprived of Representation in the Grand Chapter."

The following from the report of Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence:

"Your Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence beg leave to make the following report, viz.: That they have considered that portion of the address of the M. E. Grand High Priest relating to questions of law and usage, submitted to your Committee, and find that his answer relating to the disabilities depriving Master Masons from the privileges of Royal Arch Masonry, is correct and approved by your Committee; that is to say, a Master Mason having lost his left hand cannot receive the degrees conferred by Chapters.

"2d. That your Committee cannot agree with the M. E. Grand High Priest in his answer to the question whether a Master Mason becomes a member of the Chapter in which he receives the degrees, when requested to do so by a Chapter in which he has been elected to receive the degrees.

"The question has been settled in this Grand Jurisdiction, that a Chapter consenting, or requesting another Chapter to confer the degrees on a Brother who has removed from the place wherein he was elected to receive the degrees, has still the control of the Brother, and on his receiving the degrees is a member of the Chapter in which he was elected."

It would seem to us that there must be a vast amount of trading in candidates in some of the jurisdictions we are in correspondence with. We think our practice is the best, viz.: If a Brother Master Mason desires to join a Chapter in a place at a distance from where he resides, the Chapter to

which he petitions shall notify the Chapter nearest his place of residence of that fact, if that *Chapter* know of no good and sufficient *Masonic objection*, they certify that fact, and if he is approved, the degrees are conferred upon him, and he becomes the property of the Chapter conferring the degrees; if the same Chapter have Masonic objections, the Chapter to which he applies is required to consider them, and refuse to accept the applicant, but they are their own judges as to whom they will admit to their Chapter.

The Report on Correspondence is by Companion A. T. C. Pierson, a veteran in the business, and a fine Masonic scholar. He reviews the proceedings of thirty-nine Grand Chapters; Pennsylvania, for 1871, being among the number. From his review of Alabama, we quote the following:

“We contend that there should be no legislation on the subject of substitutes, except, perhaps, admonitory; that the Companions should be the best judges of the propriety or necessity for their use.

“There are always present at our Convocations a sufficient number of conservative Companions to prevent an undue use of liberty. We regard the ‘substitute question’ as one of *policy* only.

“Questions of *principle* should be defined, and no variation from, or infringement of the law be permitted, by dispensation or otherwise; but questions of *policy* should be determined by the Companions, because conversant with all the facts; they are the best qualified to judge of the necessity or propriety of a certain course of action.

“We are opposed to the whole system of dispensations, particularly in Capitular Masonry; and we hold that no officer of any Body holding any relation to Masonry—*the Grand Master alone excepted*—has any right or authority to grant dispensations for any purpose whatever, except that by the *written* Constitutions such authority is conferred, and that for specifically named objects.

“Grand Masters, being older than written constitutions, have *inherent* rights and prerogatives; but all other officers of Grand Bodies are *creatures* of the *written* law, and have no such rights or prerogatives.

In his review of New York, he says, with reference to her action about West Virginia:

"With all deference to the New York Companions, we think that more is conceded to, than is claimed by, the General Grand Chapter. It never attempted to exercise jurisdiction in Virginia or Pennsylvania. We happened to be in Wheeling when the formation of a Grand Chapter for Western Virginia was being agitated. We urged the Companions with whom we conversed on the subject to organize under the authority of the General Grand Body, and assigned as one reason that they would be in more immediate fellowship with the Companions of the Union.

"The question arose, how that could be? Were not the Companions of Virginia, Pennsylvania, Florida, Kentucky, Vermont, etc., etc., admitted to all the privileges in Chapters and Grand Chapters that were conceded to visitors from any locality? If it had jurisdiction in Virginia or Pennsylvania it had not attempted to exercise it in over seventy years; nor had attempted any discipline with those, which, *made by it*, had repudiated its authority!

"We did not doubt their authority to form a Grand Chapter; but did, and do, theirs, or any body's, *right to practice the system FIRST promulgated by the General Grand Chapter without its permission.*

"With the example of Florida, to say nothing of others, before us, it appears to us to be rather late in the day to refuse recognition because the General Grand Chapter was not consulted. The Chapters in West Virginia were organized before the State, and under the authority of the Grand Chapter of Virginia, having its authority, even if that was necessary, a Grand Chapter was organized, and it is presumable that the Virginia system is still practiced. In Florida the case was different; there, the first Chapter received its authority from the General Grand Chapter, hence it claimed and exercised jurisdiction and had a valid claim, and yet New York did not refuse recognition. The General Grand Chapter in 1868 settled the question, that, as far as organization was concerned, Chapters might do about as they pleased. We bow to its decision as in duty bound; and say to the Grand Chapter of West Virginia, go ahead; you have more than precedent for your action."

Of the General Grand Chapter (and by the way, he is an ancient supporter of that Body), he says:

"Masonic re-unions are mighty pleasant things, and attendance marks an episode in life. Beyond the pleasures of re-union, the meetings of the General Grand Chapter of late years has not been particularly characterized."

On the question of balloting in each degree, he says :

“ Companion Ogden believes that an objection, without reasons, from a single Companion should bar progress ; that an objection is equivalent to a negative ballot, or, in other words, that a ballot may be used in each degree. We again utter our dissent. Balloting for each separate degree is an Americanism, and of comparatively recent date even in the Blue Degrees, let alone the Capitular.”

And we agree with Companion Pierson.

Pennsylvania receives fraternal notice.

Companion JAMES N. CASTLE, *Most Excellent Grand High Priest.*

Companion E. D. B. PORTER, *Grand Secretary.*

MISSISSIPPI.

The Twenty-fifth Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter of Mississippi was held in the city of Canton, February 7, 1873. Companion H. C. Robinson, M. E. Grand High Priest, delivered an address in which he gave some plain talk and communicated some curious ideas. Quote as follows :

“ As I know, harmony prevails throughout our jurisdiction ; yet I fear that this harmony is not real, but only apparent. The punishment of Masonic offences is generally left to the Lodges, and if an offender escapes punishment there, he is continued in good standing in his Chapter, no matter what the offence charged ; and if he is expelled or suspended by his Lodge and afterward restored, he is continued in full fellowship in his Chapter. If we claim to be higher in degree, should we not also be higher in morality and virtue ? I think we should.

“ If I had the power, I would consolidate, not only the Grand Chapter and Council, in one body, but the whole of Masonry—Symbolic, Capitular and Cryptic—under one Grand Lodge and Grand Master, in each jurisdiction. As it is, our funds are squandered in costly charters, regalia, high salaries and printing, and very little left for the destitute Brother and the widow and orphans.”

And this for the General Grand Chapter :

“ I think that no good results from subordination to the General Grand Chapter, and recommend that steps be taken to dissolve our connection therewith.”

The Twenty-sixth Annual Convocation was held at Canton, February 6, 1874. Companion George R. Fearn, M. E. Grand High Priest, delivered an address, of which the following is part:

"At the last meeting in 1873 of Canton Chapter No. 10, I directed the Secretary not to enter as suspended those members who were twelve months in arrears for dues. I am aware, Companions, that this order is in direct conflict with a regulation of this Grand Chapter. I do not believe that regulation correctly interprets the will of this Grand Chapter; nor is it, in my opinion, in accord with the spirit of our Institution. It has been held in the Grand Lodge that no Mason shall be deprived of any of his Masonic privileges until an opportunity has been given him to be heard. Is there any good reason why a departure should be had in the Chapter, from a principle which so heartily commends itself to our every sense of justice and Masonic charity? I am no advocate of those who, having the ability, neglect or refuse to pay their just dues; such men are not fit to be Masons, and should be debarred the privilege of entering our Chapters. But let them be heard—do not proceed against them without notice; if they neglect their duty, let us not forget ours. I trust these views may meet your approbation, and that you will so alter that section of our regulation that it will no longer be obnoxious because of such objections.

"I deem it unnecessary to make mention of any other decisions rendered during the year now closing; but before dismissing this subject, think it my duty to recommend a revision of our regulations. Those now in force are totally inadequate to the wants of the Fraternity, and are in some cases inconsistent, even unintelligible, the result, I fear, of hasty action in the past. It cannot be said 'we are too much governed,' unless it be by the individual opinions of presiding officers unaided by the utterances of the Grand Chapter, and hence, in a great degree, there is confusion among the Craft. In some of our sister Grand Chapters, by special enactment, the laws and regulations of the Grand Lodge, are made to apply to the Subordinate Chapters, except where inconsistent and inapplicable. With this brief mention of what I consider a matter of deep interest, I leave it to you.

"I desire to call your attention to the fact that at the Annual Convocation in 1872, steps were taken looking to the establishment of the Order of High Priesthood in this Grand Juris-

dition, and a Committee was raised for that purpose. There has been no report of that Committee, as appears from the proceedings ; and I invite your attention to the subject that some disposition may be made of it.

“ I have made no appointment of Representatives to other Grand Chapters, not that I disapprove of the system, on the contrary it meets my most hearty approbation. But this Grand Body has, by the adoption of the report of the Committee at a previous Convocation, making it the duty of the Grand High Priest to accredit, *annually*, a Representation to every other Grand Chapter with which we were in correspondence, placed me in an unpleasant position, and at a loss to know how to proceed.

“ My predecessors had already appointed able representatives to many other Grand Bodies, and to remove them without just cause, seemed to me to be discourteous ; to re-issue commissions to the same Companions involved a useless expense, which this Grand Chapter could but ill afford. I preferred then to wait an expression of opinion from you, and this I hope you will give for the benefit of my successors.

“ I congratulate you sincerely upon the improved condition of your finances. The large indebtedness which for so long a time has embarrassed the Grand Chapter, and which last year had reached to nearly the sum of five thousand dollars, is now reduced to but little more than one thousand. This happy result is due in a great measure to the prompt and favorable action of the delegates to your last Convocation, and a similar concession at this time—which I feel assured will be cheerfully granted—will place the Grand Chapter out of debt. This being accomplished, prudence would dictate the inauguration of a policy by which the receipts should at least equal the disbursements, and your Grand Chapter become self-sustaining. How this can be best done, I leave to your wisdom to determine.

“ The rapid manner in which candidates are hurried through the Degrees of Capitular Masonry is a subject which demands your attention. I am informed that there are many cases in which the seven degrees of Symbolic and Capitular Masonry have been conferred upon the same individuals in less than four mouths.

“ May we not in this great haste to make Masons, see in a great degree, the causes of that indifference and apathy, and I grieve to say, even contempt for their obligation, manifested by so many who claim to be of the Royal Craft. We are told that Masonry is ‘ a system of morality veiled in allegory, and

illustrated by symbols ;' to arrive at a proper appreciation of its beauties and excellencies, it must be closely studied and deeply reflected upon. At the building of the Temple of Solomon, not only was the rough stone carefully selected free from all defect or flaw, but each was required to be so square as to pass the strict scrutiny of the Overseer. And so, Companions, in the erection of the far nobler Temple of which we are in part the builders, should we not be as diligent and careful in the selection of the material, and in their forming and fashioning for appropriate places in the edifice ? ”

We quote thus largely and without comment, except as to the first paragraph. We can only say if the Grand High Priest of our jurisdiction should set aside or act contrary to a law upon our books, we would raise such a howl against him as would make him shudder. If a law is bad, repeal it without delay ; but how, in view of your covenant, you can violate it, beats our comprehension.

The Report on Correspondence is brief, and we think the following is about all the original matter presented :

“ Your Committee on Foreign Correspondence, adhering to the wise rule prescribed by you, that it should condense the matter reported, to ‘ the smallest practical space, omitting all local references,’ and reporting only such matters as are of general interest, or which require action on your part, beg leave to report that they have carefully examined all reports submitted to them, and have thus ascertained that Capitular Masonry exhibits a healthy growth and condition in all countries speaking the English language, and in Chapters subordinate to their respective Grand Chapters.”

Companion GEORGE R. FEARN, (re-elected,) *Most Excellent Grand High Priest.*

Companion J. L. POWER, (re-elected,) *Grand Secretary.*

NEW HAMPSHIRE.

The Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter of New Hampshire was held in the city of Concord, May 30, 1873, Companion Edward Gustine, M. E. Grand High Priest, presiding. In his address, which was brief and local in its character, he adverts to the fact that, “ In some instances the officers of Chapters were notified that the Grand Officers were ready to

make an official visit, but received no reply, thereby rendering it impossible for the Grand Officers to perform the duties expected of them ;" and he expresses the hope that every officer elected to the highest office, will remember that it is an office of honor to those only who faithfully discharge the duties thereof. In our judgment, for an officer of a Subordinate Chapter to neglect, or manifest carelessness or indifference which may obstruct the duty of a Grand Officer, commits a Masonic crime, which merits the severest punishment. The effects of such inattention on the part of the officers above referred to, does not affect them near so much as their hundred members, and we think it merits sequestration of their charter. Punishment of that nature inflicted in one or two instances, we will guarantee will cure that disease throughout the whole jurisdiction.

The Report on Correspondence is again by Companion John J. Bell. Pennsylvania is not noticed. From his review of South Carolina, we quote the following :

" The Report on Correspondence notices the proceedings of thirty-four Grand Chapters, including New Hampshire. The Committee go with Corson on the question of objection after ballot, holding that the candidate submits himself to the ordeal of one ballot, not of an indefinitely continued ballot, and, therefore, it is unjust to him to allow weight to the simple veto of a Companion. This seems to us a complete begging of the question. To what ordeal does the candidate submit?—as we say, not only to a ballot, but to the unanimous consent of the Companions, up to the time of making: the law being so understood, there is no unfairness of the sort our Companions of South Carolina suppose. The true question, as it seems to us, are, Which is most likely to secure to the Craft that none but good men should be admitted? Which is most for the true and permanent interest of the Institution? "

We think the answer is, follow the plan of giving a man a chance ; that is to say, if he passes the ordeal of a committee and a ballot for all the degrees, he should get them, unless the objection should be made before he gets the first degree ; after that, charges should be preferred if you wish to keep him out. The following is his conclusion, and if we read the pro-

ceedings which has come to us right, or understand what we read, we must differ from several points he makes in it :

“ General prosperity and harmony seems the characteristic of the present position of Capitular Masonry. The General Grand Chapter seems to be regaining its old position, and to be now stronger than ever in the regard of the Craft. The agitation about the P. M. degree seems almost extinguished, although here and there we see attempts, which must be ultimately abortive, to distinguish it as a distinct degree from that conferred upon Masters of Symbolic Lodges. The substitute question, though not settled by the action of the General Grand Chapter, is in a fair way to pass off. Affiliation and the neglect of it are still discussed. The tendency to abandon the peculiar feature and strength of Freemasonry, its voluntary character, and its want of any necessary dependence on organizations, whether Lodge or other, is still very strong, although it can hardly be said to have gained anything the past year in this branch of our Institution. Where would Masonry have been to-day had the crusade now waged upon non-affiliates been made and been successful before the days of William Morgan ? It is a fact that Masonry was kept alive in many places, and after the storm passed, was revived by unaffiliated Masons.

“ We observe a disposition, whose wisdom we doubt, to fraternize with European Masonic Bodies having names similar to ours, without regard to differences so great as to amount to difference of rite ; but this is probably temporary, and, after our Companions have been snubbed sufficiently often by these foreign High Grades, we shall hear little more of them.

“ The change of the G. O. or R. A. W. by the General Grand Chapter has not met with that opposition which might have been expected ; but the report in Grand Chapter of Massachusetts which we have quoted, shows the wisdom of representatives in refusing to communicate to this Grand Chapter anything about it.”

Companion EDWARD GUSTINE, (re-elected,) *Most Excellent Grand High Priest.*

Companion JOHN A. HARRIS, *Grand Secretary.*

NEW JERSEY.

The Eighteenth Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter of New Jersey was held in the city of Trenton, September 9, 1874. Companion Wm. H. McIlhanney, M. E. Grand High Priest, Presiding. In his address he refers to the violation of the jurisdictional right of a Chapter of New Jersey by a Chapter in New York, and the prompt reparation therefor through the Grand High Priest of that jurisdiction. Also in the case of New Jersey trespassing upon the rights of Pennsylvania, which was very handsomely remedied by Grand High Priest McIlhanney, and finally referred to the Grand Chapter, which Body reported as follows, for which prompt, manly and judicious action they deserve thanks :

“ The Committee on Appeals and Grievances having had the subject of invasion of the jurisdiction of our sister Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania, by Wilson Chapter, No. 13, located at Lambertville, and holding a warrant from this Grand Body, and referred to in the address of our Most Excellent Grand High Priest, beg to report that they have carefully examined the facts in the case and find that during the administration of Past Grand High Priest D. S. Battey, complaint was made to him by the Grand High Priest of Pennsylvania, that their jurisdiction was being invaded by Wilson Chapter. Our Grand High Priest immediately called the attention of said Chapter to the complaint, and interdicted further action on the petition of the candidate whose application was the cause of complaint.

“ Our present Grand High Priest having had his attention called to a similar infraction of our General Regulations by Wilson Chapter in this case, the degrees having actually been conferred, he felt it to be his duty to at once notify the Most Excellent Grand High Priest of Pennsylvania of this renewed invasion of their jurisdiction by our Subordinate, and awaited his official action thereon, promising that due reparation should be made, and such action taken that would prevent in future a repetition of the offence.

“ Thereupon formal complaint was made to this Grand Body through our Most Excellent Grand High Priest, calling upon this Grand Chapter to make good the promise of our Most Excellent Grand High Priest. It therefore becomes the

duty of this Grand Body to take such action as will prevent a repetition of the offence.

"Wilson Chapter has twice committed the offence of invading the territory of our sister jurisdiction of Pennsylvania, notwithstanding the admonishment from our Grand High Priest in the first case. Your committee would therefore recommend that Wilson Chapter, No. 13, be directed to forward to the Chapter nearest the town of New Hope, in the jurisdiction of Pennsylvania, the amount of fees received by them in the case under consideration, and that they make suitable apology to said Chapter for such invasion of their territory; and further, that Wilson Chapter, No. 13, be admonished that a repetition of the offence will be sufficient cause in the judgment of this Grand Body to arrest their warrant.

"Your committee deeply regret the necessity that compels them to make this recommendation, but justice to our sister jurisdiction of Pennsylvania, and as a principle which we feel that our Grand Chapter should unhesitatingly assert, we will not tolerate invasion of our jurisdiction, nor will it allow our own Subordinates to be guilty of the offence."

The following decisions, Nos. 3 and 5, from the address of the M. E. Grand High Priest, we think sound :

"3. When a Companion is suspended or expelled from his Lodge, the Chapter cannot demand an official notice of the same; action must be taken upon other reliable information.

"5. Material of other jurisdictions, which, on application from a Chapter in this jurisdiction, has been lawfully granted to them, becomes the sole property of such Chapter to whom it has been assigned. Should the candidate be rejected, he cannot be accepted by any other Chapter, without the consent of the Chapter to whom he was originally assigned."

The different officers made reports upon their action and visits to the different Chapters, and do not hesitate to speak out in school either in praise or condemnation, as the following will show from the report of the Grand Scribe :

"On the 28th of April, I visited Oriental Chapter, No. 15, where I had the pleasure of meeting Most Excellent Companion M. Higginbotham, Past Grand High Priest. The attendance was small, and some of the principal officers were not present. The work of the Mark Master's degree was exemplified. I was compelled to give a slight rebuke to such

of the Subordinate Officers as were in the habit of retiring to the ante-room while the work was progressing."

We should think that rebuke would remedy that complaint in future.

The Grand Treasurer says, in his report:

"Our expenses for this year aggregate a much larger sum than ever before, and prevent me, in consequence, from making as gratifying a report as I did last year. I was then able to show a balance from the previous year, that I had invested so as to earn interest for the benefit of the Grand Chapter. This amount, with the entire sum received a year ago, was overdrawn in a short time, and, upon payment of the last "order" to make good our mortgage, I had to use my private funds—which I did most cheerfully. I mention these facts that we may exercise a proper economy in our expenditures, and aim to accumulate a fund, the interest of which may be applied for charitable purposes. In other jurisdictions such is the case, and we must not let New Jersey be behindhand in good works."

We think the idea good, and hope and believe our Companions across the river will carry it out to a glorious conclusion.

The Report on Correspondence is again by Companion Thomas J. Corson, and is, as usual, sparkling, bright and able, and embraces the Proceedings of Thirty-five Grand Chapters, Pennsylvania for 1873 being among the number. In his review of Kansas, he says:

"Now we will not yield to any Companion in Kansas in love for the General Grand Chapter, nor will any one do more than ourself to maintain the rights and uphold the authority of that Body, but we cannot go so far as our Kansas Companions have gone. We would love to see the Grand Chapter of West Virginia unite with those of us who propose allegiance to the General Grand Chapter, but West Virginia has a right to judge what is best for herself, and we have no right to attempt to intimidate or coerce her. We have no moral or Masonic right to place her under ban or withhold recognition from her because she does not unite with the General Grand Chapter. This Grand Chapter was as regularly and legally formed as those of Pennsylvania or Virginia, and is as much entitled to our fraternal recognition as they are."

In his review of Louisiana, he says :

" Now, it seems to us that it would be a simple impossibility to read in full, before a Grand Body, a Report on Correspondence, unless it was such a miserable condensation as to have all the good squeezed out of it. We have almost forty Grand Chapters on our exchange list, and can you ask us to give all the information of real vital interest, concerning the proceedings of these Grand Chapters, in such abbreviated form that it can be read at one sitting ? The idea is preposterously absurd. A report should be an epitome of all important transactions which have occurred in other jurisdictions ; and it should be carefully studied by Companions when they have leisure to do so, and preserved for purpose of reference. The time which would be consumed in reading the report is required for the purpose of transacting the necessary business of the Annual Convocation. In our jurisdiction—and we like the plan—the report is printed about a fortnight before the time of the Annual Convocation, and a copy is sent to each member of the Grand Chapter, that he may have an opportunity to call the attention of the Grand Chapter to anything which may be contained therein, if he should deem it necessary to do so. It involves very little expense, and with us, at least, the plan has worked admirably well."

Which we think sound, every word of it. .

In his review of Massachusetts, he says :

" At this same Convocation the Grand High Priest ' submitted a form of burial service ' for Royal Arch Masons, which was referred to a Committee, who subsequently reported in favor of the project, which report was adopted. We are sincerely sorry that this action was taken, and hope that the example will not be followed by other jurisdictions. We are opposed to the use of any but the burial service of the Lodge, because any other service excludes from participation therein many worthy Brothers who have never advanced beyond the Lodge. Will not Massachusetts give us a burial service for the Council (R. and S. M.) and thus give a fellow a chance to be buried from the highest point to which he may have attained ? "

Most of our Companions will agree with the wish expressed in the above. Our opinion is that the sooner we get the notion out of our head that high degrees give character to us as Masons, in either public or private life, to the exclu-

sion of our Solid Blue Degrees, the better it will be for us and the Institution we represent.

Companion Corson being, of course, duly ashamed of his Latin quotations (as he calls them), gently turns the issue on the advice we gave Georgia last year, and says as follows :

“ To which, in the language of the immortal Solon Shingle, we would make answer, ‘ Jes so! Jes so! ’ Unless we have been greatly misinformed, our Pennsylvania Companions are rather given to smelling ‘ that stuff,’ and smelling *of* it, although we didn’t know that Companion Kelly was addicted to that rather hazardous exercise. ‘ That stuff ’ is recognized as one of the ‘ ancient landmarks ’ in Pennsylvania, by which our Companions of that sylvan land most devotedly swear, and whose benign influence over those ardent devotees continues rather longer than ‘ sixty seconds.’ ”

Which we think the unkindest cut of all. For while we cannot and do not deny the soft impeachment, yet we boldly say that every particle of our sin in that direction was imported from our Companions of New Jersey, and Companion Tom is responsible for a large share thereof. We therefore appeal to our Companion Reporters for fair play; they teach us by persistent, long-continued and earnest effort to smell of that stuff, etc., and then basely betray our weakness.

The following we clip from his conclusion :

“ I shall not attempt to apologize for the imperfect manner in which my work has been performed. Considering the material which has been furnished, I feel that I have not offered such work as the Overseers can conscientiously approve. But if my Companions knew all—if they knew how the body and mind had been prostrated by disease—their criticism of my work would be tempered by mercy. A painful presentiment forces itself upon my mind, that this may be the last report that I shall ever have the pleasure of presenting to this Grand Body. God grant that this may not be so, for I love the work so well that the thought of ceasing it makes me shudder. But whatever may await me in God’s mysterious providence, I pray that I may be cheered by the thought that I have the love of my Brethren and Companions. If I have ever written a word that has caused pain; if my love of fun and my natural tendency to indulge in joking has wounded a single heart, I pray God to forgive me. Life is too short and

the end too near for any of us to do or say aught that would inflict pain."

We are inexpressibly pained at reading the above, and instinctively turn from the last to the first part of the book to look at the very excellent picture of our Companion, clear, rugged and promising, and feel that he must have suffered much to compel him to pen those lines, yet fail to find them likely to be verified from his counterfeit. Yet, alas, but little time is required to make great changes in our feelings and appearance. Still, as one who has received kindness and instruction and courage from the example and words of that most kind-hearted Companion, we pray earnestly and sincerely that he may be spared many years to his family, Brethren and friends.

NOVA SCOTIA.

A Special Convocation of the Grand Chapter was held in the city of Halifax, December 27, 1872. Companion S. R. Sircom, M. E. Grand High Priest, presiding.

Among a number of amendments to the Constitution and Regulations of the Grand Chapter, is the following which we think good :

"SEC. 4. The Degrees of Mark Master, Past Master, Most Excellent Master, and Royal Arch Mason cannot be conferred in any Chapter without the appropriate ceremonies in each Degree ; nothing ought to be abbreviated, in any case, nor must anything be added to for mere effect or otherwise."

The Fourth Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter of Nova Scotia, was held in the city of Halifax, June 3, 1873, Companion S. R. Sircom, M. E. Grand High Priest, delivered an address full of good points, but unfortunately that prerogative of the Grand High Priest, which will neither reform or die out, he has practised also, he says, as follows :

"The Grand Scribe R. E., F. W. Dakin, in company with the Grand Secretary, and Companions Rickards, Chase, Martin and Ruhland, proceeded to Liverpool, for the purpose of instructing the Companions in the work. There being so many applicants for degrees, and desiring to see this new Chapter

firmly established, I granted a Dispensation to confer the R. A. on more than three Candidates at the same time."

We quote from his address the following :

" To recognize as a Grand Chapter a Body having fewer admissions during the year, and less funds at its credit, than each of several Subordinate Chapters holding of the Supreme Chapter, which could be named, appears to your Committee to be making a burlesque of Grand Chapters, and has a manifest tendency to lower the dignity and impair the efficiency of Grand Chapters in general.'

" In Nova Scotia it has been long understood that Royal Arch Masonry in the Supreme Grand Chapter of Scotland, meant fees and dues to the Grand Scribe E., and this last proof of *money considerations* is sufficiently conclusive that these views were not incorrectly formed. Money, I admit, is a very useful commodity, but I was not before aware that the possession of any particular sum was a pre-requisite to a successful formation of a Grand Chapter: will Companion Hay and Companion Mackersey, the signers of this circular, inform us of the exact amount in bank notes, gold and silver, the Supreme Grand Chapter of Scotland possessed at its formation ? did it much exceed £30 1s. 1d. ? I doubt it.

" Some of the Grand Chapters on this continent, with small funds, without any funds, and some in debt, had better be a little less lavish in their expenditures, or the Supreme Grand Chapter of Scotland may visit them with its displeasure, for the Grand Chapter of Nova Scotia is not the only Grand Chapter whose funds are less than some of the Subordinate Scottish Chapters ; in this jurisdiction there are two Chapters who possess conjointly in funds and property some \$2500, over £500 Sterling, and I believe there are not more than ten Grand Chapters on this continent, if as many, that have even this comparatively small amount to their credit.

" Touching the number admitted during the year 1870-71, I find in proportion to the number of Chapters we stand very favorably. Let me call your attention to the statistics of M. E. Companion, J. H. Drummond in the proceedings of the Grand Chapter of Maine, for 1872, where the following Grand Chapters show less additions than ours :

Delaware,	No. of Chaps.	4	Exaltations	25.
North Carolina,	"	15	"	13.
Oregon,	"	5	"	5.
Virginia,	"	43	"	15.
Nova Scotia,	"	3	"	30.

"Numbers are not at all times an evidence of prosperity. The Supreme Grand Chapter of Scotland, however, may be fully convinced of one wholesome fact, that the Grand Chapter of Nova Scotia is a firm organization, and that it has placed Capitular Masonry in this Province in that prosperous condition, that otherwise it would never have occupied. We can wait for the recognition of the Supreme Grand Chapter of Scotland; if it comes, well and good, we shall rejoice; if not, we can do without it.

"The Committee of General Purposes have considered the action of the Supreme Grand Chapter of Scotland, and have concluded it expedient for the interest of Royal Arch Masonry in Nova Scotia, that the Constitution of the Grand Chapter be put into force. They have therefore with my full concurrence, declared and proclaimed, not however without great regret, the Union Chapter, No. 108, held in Yarmouth, and the St. John's Chapter, No. 130, held in Pictou, and both holding under the Supreme Grand Chapter of Scotland, *irregular*, and have forbidden the Subordinate Chapters under the Grand Chapter of Nova Scotia, 'holding any intercourse as Royal Arch Masons, with said irregular Chapter until such time as this edict is revoked.' A printed circular has been forwarded to every Grand Chapter of their action in the premises,

"As the Supreme Grand Chapter of Scotland have deemed it 'inexpedient to give any countenance to our Body,' I consider that until such action is revoked by them, no consideration should be given by us, or by our subordinates, to any Companion Royal Arch Mason, hailing from the said Supreme Grand Chapter of Scotland."

We have quoted thus fully because the M. E. Grand Chapter of Nova Scotia has taken the extreme step of declaring non-intercourse; and while we admit the Grand Chapter of Scotland might have acted more fraternally than to treat their case so summarily, yet we do not understand their action to exclude fraternization among the members of each; but Nova Scotia has precipitated the issue, and whether for weal or woe the edict has been sent forth. Personally, we do not like *such* extreme measures among our Fraternity, it makes bad feeling and sometimes spreads to undue dimensions, whereas a little forbearance and conciliation would remove the evil with less

trouble and without leaving the bad effects behind, usually attendant upon excited feeling.

The Report on Correspondence is by Companion James Gossip, the Grand Secretary, and though brief, is as usual a very good report. The number of Grand Chapters noticed is limited, but the selections are good and the criticism judicious. Pennsylvania is not among the number.

NEW YORK.

The Seventy-seventh Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter of the State of New York, was held in the city of Albany, February 3, 1874.

Companion Thomas C. Cassidy, M. E. Grand High Priest, delivered an address covering many points of interest to the craft. He thus gracefully alludes to his visit at the dedication of our Temple :

“On Monday, September 29th, on invitation from M. E. Companion Charles E. Meyer, Grand High Priest of Pennsylvania, and accompanied by M. E. Companion John W. Simons, and M. E. and Reverend Companion James B. Murray, Grand Chaplain, I attended the dedication of the Grand Chapter Room in the new Masonic Temple, at Philadelphia. The beautiful and chaste appearance of the room, the magnificent and picturesque display, and the unbounded hospitality exhibited by the Companions of that State, will not easily be forgotten.”

The following decision confuses our mind more and more in regard to the *dropping from the rolls for non-payment* of dues. Sometimes we get the impression that, dropping from the roll is suspension until the dues are paid, but a decision like the following upsets that theory and leaves us more at sea than ever :

“ 1. That a member who has been stricken from the roll of his Lodge for non-payment of dues, if in good standing in his Chapter, is entitled to vote and is eligible to any office therein.”

The following sounds strangely in view of the above :

“ 6. That though a Lodge should make the serious mistake of suspending a member for non-payment of dues, instead of striking him from the roll, as provided in the Constitution of

the Grand Lodge, the Chapter has no right to question the legality of the proceeding, and the Companion would not be entitled to a dimit, until restored by his Lodge or some other proper authority."

The following we quote, and think it should receive wide circulation, so that the practice will be condemned as it ought:

"There is another subject to which I desire to allude, and that is the manner in which some of the degrees are too often conferred. I mean the adding of treatment not required by the ritual, and repulsive to gentlemen of cultivated tastes, and at times sufficient to cause disgust instead of exalted ideas on the part of the recipients. Its practice is offensive to good manners, and should be at once and forever discontinued."

The Grand Lecturer reports as follows:

"It has also been reported that some of the Chapters still permit certain practices to be introduced during the conferring of degrees which are not only beneath the dignity of Royal Arch Masons, but seriously detract from the sublime and sacred teachings of Capitular Masonry, and, in many instances, entirely destroy the impression sought to be made on the mind of the novitiate.

"The Grand Chapter has also acted on this subject in a very decided manner; and a resolution was unanimously adopted some four years since positively *forbidding* such practices, with the same penalty of *forfeiture of warrant* in case of the violation of said resolution. A little reflection on the part of the Companions will, I think, serve to correct the evils alluded to, and convince them of the impropriety of such demoralizing practices, as well as of the necessity of obeying the edicts of this Grand Body. Nevertheless, from my somewhat extended experience, I feel safe in saying that in no other jurisdiction is to be found the uniformity of work that exists among the Chapters comprising this, the largest jurisdiction of Royal Arch Masons in the world, and the Companions are zealous in preserving and imparting the Standard Work in its purity."

The latter part of the above quotation we take with many grains of allowance. While we have no doubt that New York has good work, and we know that they are zealous in keeping it well up to the scale of perfection, yet from the quotations as given from the Grand High Priest and the remarks by the Grand Lecturer, we are inclined to dispute the

palm ; at least, we claim as good an average. While we think that *we may* not be so demonstrative in the ritual, we know we do not get down to what is *not* in the ritual, and we taboo what they call evil practices.

From the Report on Jurisprudence we quote the following :

“ The first, and perhaps the most important of these topics, is embraced in the question :

“ A subordinate Chapter failing or neglecting to elect officers at the time of the annual election, is its last High Priest entitled to a seat in the Grand Chapter as its Representative ? ”

“ Section 23 of the Constitution prescribes the number of its Chapter officers, of whom the first five are elective ; and it further prescribes, that a warranted Chapter in this jurisdiction shall consist of those officers, and as many members as may be convenient. The unwritten law defines that a Chapter must consist of nine Companions, of whom the High Priest, King and Scribe must be three.

“ Section 24 of the Constitution provides that the first five officers shall be elected annually, by ballot, and by a majority of the votes cast at the regular Convocation of the Chapter next preceding St. John the Evangelist’s Day.

“ No provision is made in the Constitution, or in the installation ceremony, for holding over or continuing in office of a High Priest after an annual election ; the nearest approach to it being in Section 28, which provides that ‘ in case of a vacancy in the office of High Priest, an election can only be held at a regular Convocation (the members having been duly summoned for that purpose) by virtue of a dispensation from the Grand High Priest, or the Deputy Grand High Priest, and which must be applied for by the King and Scribe, and by a vote of two-thirds of all the members present at a regular Convocation.’

“ The case in question arose in Genesee Chapter, No. 217. This Chapter consists of some twenty members, of whom about twelve reside in that village.”

Our practice is to install for the year, or until his successor is elected and installed. So that if by any possibility they should fail to elect as provided, the Chapter does not suffer, for the old officers hold over.

The following from the Report of the same Committee, we think sound :

““ What course should the High Priest of a Chapter pursue when he learns, previous to the installation, that one of its officers-elect has been guilty of appropriating to his own use funds of a Lodge of Master Masons while treasurer of said Lodge, and neglecting and refusing to pay over such funds to his successor in office ?”

“We conceive that the best mode in such cases, is always to present and act upon charges ; the right of defence being one of which no Companion can be deprived. It may be necessary to guard against wrong by immediate action ; but in most cases it is better to install the officer, and then suspend or cause him to be suspended from his official functions until action be had upon the charges. If that action result in a conviction, then a vacancy will be made in the office, to be determined and supplied in the Constitutional manner.”

The Report on Foreign Correspondence is by Companion D. A. Ogden, and is, in our judgment, a very brilliant effort. Bold, intelligent, courteous and sparkling, we can honestly say we were much edified in reading it.

In his review of Canada, he says :

“In commenting on Pennsylvania, we find the extract which we give below. It is quite in accord with human nature, that M. E. Grand High Priest Meyer should think the work in Pennsylvania was better than that of New York ; yet we venture to say, that any Royal Arch Mason in the State of New York, and a vast majority of those of every other State, will most decidedly differ with the Grand High Priest of the Key-stone State, in regard to the excellency and purity of the work in the Chapter degrees ; and further, we believe, that our Brethren and Companions in Canada, on the exemplification of the New York work, which is the standard of the General Grand Chapter of the United States, and the work of Pennsylvania, (which has never been a member of the American Masonic Union, or acknowledged its standard of work, or the authority of the General Grand Chapter,) would say that the work of New York was the best and purest. In this connection we give also the Pennsylvania view, as well as that of Canada, in regard to the Order of High Priesthood ; while we concede to these Grand Chapters the right to do as they please, yet we nevertheless submit that the practice of New York is the better way. *In principle we are the same, but it*

does appear to us that we reach the end in a more orderly and proper manner."

The italics are ours.

We are sorry that Companion Ogden was absent from the Annual Meeting of his Grand Chapter, of which the above are part of the proceedings ; for if he had been and listened to the Grand High Priest's address, also the Report of the Grand Lecturer, he would have quietly erased those lines, or what perhaps is better, have thought we all do well enough, and that distinctions in such cases are not easily drawn, because of the difficulty in ascertaining which works the best. From his review of Indiana we take the following :

" On the subject of a brother's receiving the Capitular Degrees, after having lost a right foot, a Committee, to whom the subject was referred, reported want of time for thorough examination, and asked and were granted further time. This Committee make a valuable suggestion in their report, viz. : That this subject, upon which there is so much diversity of opinion, and which in many jurisdictions is being discussed, should be settled by the General Grand Chapter, and thus give uniformity of action throughout the Union. We fully concur in this view, provided there be authority in the General Grand Chapter to decide and power to enforce. Doubtless the power or right to decide exists, but on this, as on other questions, the trouble is the want of authority to enforce. But we are sure that the general effect and influence of a decision by the General Grand Chapter would be beneficial, perhaps controlling in the matter, and thus settle for all the State Grand Chapters a difficult and troublesome question, and induce uniformity of practice."

We think the Companion mistaken in regard to the beneficial effects of a decision of the General Grand Chapter. If we have read the proceedings of those Grand Chapters who belong to the General Grand Chapter, right, we think there are but three or four out of the whole number who even pretend to have any respect for the decisions of that Body, which is much to be regretted ; for if we were in we should, like New York and New Jersey, aim at sustaining her with all our might and power. We give a sample from his review of Massachusetts :

" September 10th, 1872, the Third Quarterly Convocation

was held in Boston. The interesting feature of this meeting was the Report of the Grand Council, through the Grand High Priest, on the subject of the Tetragrammaton, and the action of the General Grand Chapter of the United States thereon. The report takes issue with the General Grand Chapter on the subject, and defends with much force and learning, the practice heretofore. It maintains the propriety of the words used prior to the action of General Grand Chapter, and concludes with a recommendation to disregard the action of the General Grand Body, and to continue to instruct in the ritual in the future, as it has in the past. The recommendation of the Grand Council was adopted by the Grand Chapter, and thus the ancient Grand Chapter of Massachusetts puts itself in direct antagonism with the General Grand Chapter of the United States. The propriety and wisdom of this action we may well question ; it most effectually bars the attempt to secure uniformity in a very important part of the ritualistic ceremony, and may lead to great confusion and injury. After all, is there any great question of principle, any fixed and unmistakable landmark in question, or in danger, in this matter ? It is really vital whether the use of the name of the Great I Am be given in this language or form, or in that ? according to the Chaldaic, Hebrew, Coptic, Egyptian, or Syriac idiom or pronunciation ? In either case it is the name of Deity, the Jehovah before whom all Masons bow as the one true God ; and, as one form equally expresses the name of the Infinite, is it not better to adopt throughout the entire land a uniform word, and all use that ?"

Pennsylvania receives a fraternal notice, and for kind words to ourself we return sincere thanks ; for the compliment of our defending the work and ritual of our Grand Chapter, we owe him gratitude, and when he says, " But honor, we say to him who defends his own. Yet greater honor to him who can rise above his prejudices and adopt a better way although not his own ; such a man, we take Companion Kelly to be." We reply that our heart beats responsive to every word in the paragraph. We have been on the look out for that " better way " during the whole course of our Masonic life, and are anxious now to secure it when offered, but, my Companion, *it* must be the " better way." And though we do not apprehend there is much difference in the essentials between New York

and ourselves, we have no doubt, that with an officer salaried sufficiently liberal to attend exclusively to doing the work, there may be many points of a dramatic character worked out. That the lights and shades may be more delicately blended than in our home-like plain way. Yet, we repeat, we do not think there is enough solid difference in that which ought to be taught as to give you a peg to hang your hat on. Now, Companion Ogden, come over and see; and please let us know when you are coming, and we fraternally assure you we shall be at the depot to meet you. Again he says:

“Again, instead of twenty Deputy Grand High Priests, some of whom doubtless are indifferent workmen, and others too busy with their own affairs to give the subject attention, would it not be better to imitate New York, appoint a competent Grand Lecturer, one in all respects apt to teach; one learned and familiar with the ritual, invested with full authority, directly responsible to the Grand Body, well paid for all his time, and all that time devoted to visitation and instruction? *Now, honestly, don't you believe that more and better work would be accomplished in this way, more uniformly in work and of a higher standard, than with your twenty deputies, each working his own way or working not at all?* Perhaps we may have a little prejudice, but it does appear to us that our way is the better, the safer, the more efficient system.”

Now, honestly, we think not, because our District Deputies are *not* indifferent workmen; and as they have to make reports to the Grand High Priest, we readily see who are too busy with their own affairs, and then we remove them. Besides it is the Grand High Priest's duty to instruct those officers, and for his own credit he generally keeps them bright. And while we do not profess that all of them are all the time great shining lights, yet we are sure the large majority will compare favorably with any, if you will pardon us, in this Great Union of States.

Companion THOMAS C. CASSIDY, (re-elected,) *Grand High Priest.*

Companion CHRISTOPHER G. FOX, *Grand Secretary.*

OHIO.

The Fifty-Seventh Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter of Ohio was held in the city of Toledo, September 21, 1873.

Companion J. Kelly O'Neill, M. E. Grand High Priest, in his address speaks thus plainly and correctly of one of the evils of the age :

" My attention has been called to a matter not unworthy of your consideration, and which manifests too little regard for the spirit of our regulations. It is the rapid succession with which, in some Chapters, the degrees are conferred. Our laws, it is true, still recognize cases of emergency. But the emergency must be real, not fancied. The mere desire to gratify some Brother's new-born zeal for advancement, or to accommodate the convenience of the Chapter, will not make an emergency, nor justify the conferring of degrees more rapidly than the spirit of our laws contemplate. Masonry is an education, both of the mind and the heart, and for the growth and development of which, time and labor are as essential as for the acquisition of knowledge in any other department. And this should be impressed upon the mind of the candidate, as an incentive to study, and to acquire a knowledge of the sublime truths and mysteries revealed only to the earnest and sincere inquirer. And this desire it should be the object of our ceremonial to stimulate and direct."

Again he says :

" Accompanied by a number of the Companions of Lebanon Chapter, I visited Wilmington, and installed the officers of Wilmington Chapter, No. 63, and witnessed the ceremonies of opening the Chapter by the old, and closing it by the newly-installed officers. The installation ceremonies were performed in public, and at the close of the ceremonies the Companions and Brethren, of whom a large number were present, with their wives and daughters, partook of a sumptuous banquet prepared for the occasion and spread in the hall in which the installation ceremonies were performed."

Won't you please describe those ceremonies which you perform in public? because, if they are in public, of course, there can be no harm in publishing them; and as we have never had the good fortune to see them, we would like to read of them. Again he says :

" On the 14th of May I was called to Cincinnati by business,

and it was my good fortune while there to attend a joint meeting of Cincinnati Chapter, No. 2, and Willis Chapter, No. 131, and to witness the conferring of the Royal Arch Degree by the officers of the former, and I have rarely, if ever, seen it conferred with more spirit and appreciation ; much of which was due to the able manner in which the P. S. discharged his duties. I noticed, however, some inaccuracies in the rendition of the ritual, and also some innovations upon it. But the innovations accorded well with the spirit of the degree, and accompanied as they were by good music, in no way detracted from its force and solemnity, and while under the resolutions of this Grand Chapter they cannot be approved, they should scarcely be condemned."

We must say that we think M. E. Companion O'Neall has fallen from grace to speak in such a way about a wrong perpetrated in a Chapter and in his presence. We certainly expected better things of him.

The following from the Committee on Jurisprudence we think sound, notwithstanding it was against the decision of the M. E. Grand High Priest :

"The decisions of the M. E. Grand High Priest of questions of Masonic usage, presented to him during the recess, have been read and carefully considered by your Committee, and found to be correct.

"The subject of the penalties attached to the non-payment of dues is brought to the notice of the Grand Chapter in the address of the Most Excellent Grand High Priest, and its careful consideration recommended. Upon examination of the revised code of 1868, published in the Proceedings of that year, it will be found that Rule IV. contains the regulation of the Grand Chapter in regard to the suspension and expulsion of members for the non-payment of dues. The rules of the Grand Chapter, ever since its organization, have contained the same regulation, first as Rule IX., next as Rule XII., and now as Rule IV. The Resolutions of the Grand Chapter, in force, published on pages 104 and 105 of the Proceedings of the same year, are an authoritative construction of the methods to be pursued in enforcing its several provisions. As it is conceded by all that the Masonic organization of this State must, in a great measure, depend for revenue upon an annual assessment upon their members, it is very evident that there should be some means provided for enforcing their collection. In enforcing this rule, sound judgment and Masonic charity should,

and it is believed always have and always will be exercised, and with the exercise thereof your Committee are of the opinion that the enforcement of the rule, as it now stands, will not be productive either of injury or hardship to any worthy Mason, and therefore ask to be discharged from the further consideration of the subject."

The following is one of the decisions of the M. E. Grand High Priest:

"III. A Past High Priest, who has been suspended for non-payment of dues, cannot, while so suspended, install the officers of a Chapter, and an installation by such suspended Past High Priest is void."

We would ask, Can he be present in a Chapter while such suspension exists?

The Report on Correspondence is by Companion Stith M. Sullivan, and embraces a review of 51 Grand Chapters, Pennsylvania, 1873, being among the number. The Report consists entirely of extracts, except the following, which, being short, we give it space :

"Now, having closed my Report, I have only to say that it is a laborious task; yet the subject of each address or report is so varied and pleasant to the mind, that I found so much interest that I could spend another week in their perusal with pleasure and profit. The only regret I have is, that only about one Royal Arch Mason in a thousand ever reads them, after they have been prepared with so much care and labor. I was chosen to this position without my knowledge or consent. Had I been consulted, I could have selected many Companions better qualified for the task, and who would have submitted a report worthy of Ohio."

Companion J. KELLY O'NEALL, (re-elected,) *Grand High Priest.*

Companion JAMES NESBITT, (re-elected,) *Grand Secretary.*

OREGON.

The Thirteenth Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter of Oregon was held in the city of Portland, June 6, 1873.

Companion James R. Bayley, M. E. Grand High Priest, in a

brief address, pays the following compliment, of which no one ever better deserved a compliment :

“ Our Chairman on Foreign Correspondence compares well with those of other jurisdictions whose numbers are far in our advance. And I would say that the expense of publishing is nothing in comparison to the benefits derived from a full review by our Committee of the proceedings of other Grand Jurisdictions where we find differences of opinion given and questions settled that would not be done in any other way than by a good-natured criticism, and in a friendly manner. And I therefore commend our Chairman for his zeal in reviewing, at length, our Sister Grand Bodies, and hope that the new Chairman, whoever he may be, will not neglect a full report at our next Grand Convocation.”

The following we do not understand :

“ *Resolved*, That Subordinate Chapters in this jurisdiction shall produce their original Records of Proceedings and their Charters at each Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter.”

The Report on Correspondence is again by Companion T. McF. Patton, who, we are glad to see, has been re-appointed Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence of that jurisdiction, and we are sure, were we Grand High Priest, we would hang on to him while breath was in our body. We think him creditable to any administration, and a good colleague of the reporters. He has fully reviewed the proceedings of thirty-two Grand Chapters, Pennsylvania for 1872 being of the number.

From his review of Louisiana we clip the following :

“ Considerable space in the address is devoted to the consideration of the subject of Reports of Investigating Committees. He claims with great earnestness, that the present custom of referring to Special Committees all applications for the Degrees, should be dispensed with, and allow the whole Body to consider the application. His objection is based on the fact that an unfavorable report, places the Companion so reporting in a position where his ballot can virtually be known. The matter is presented in a very candid manner and we must confess that we are favorably inclined towards his suggestions. Committees of Investigation, as a usual thing in both Lodge and Chapter are useless, from the fact that they signally fail to

attend the duties assigned them. We have in our experience, (and no doubt others have the same) been in attendance in both Chapter and Lodge, when Reports of the Special Committees were called for and the Chairman expressed surprise to hear his name mentioned in connection therewith. Apologies were in order, and after many excuses, ask permission to prepare his report, when in fact his report was mere form, and perhaps he is wholly unacquainted with the character of the applicant."

We are sorry to see Companion Patton led astray by Horner in that manner; nor do we think the argument sound, that "because some Committees do not attend to their duties." If you take the plan of our Louisiana Companion you would soon realize the old adage that "what is everybody's business is nobody's business," and the question of inquiry would practically be at an end. We beseech our Companions not to break down any of the barriers we now have. They are slight enough we opine, and our judgment is against abrogation in any direction.

On the subject of non-affiliation, we quote him in his review of New York:

"It may be that no express, well-defined law can be cited, yet he must admit that Symbolic Masonry is the foundation of the whole structure; and to establish the doctrine that good standing in a Blue Lodge is non-essential to privileges of Chapter Degrees or membership, we think would have a tendency in a very short time to weaken if not destroy the foundation itself. We are not inclined to have much faith in the loyalty of any one claiming to be a Mason, and having no connection with the Brotherhood, except in name. We do not believe he can be '*true to his vows*,' or enjoy '*irreproachable Masonic character*,' unless he practices what he preaches."

From his review of Nova Scotia we clip the following sound views:

"Last year we had occasion to express disapproval in regard to canvassing for election. We are opposed to making nominations in Lodge or Chapter, or restricting the Brethren or Companions in voting. We are still of the opinion that the old doctrine is good enough: 'All preferment among Masons is grounded upon real worth and personal merit only.' The

preferment can be made on this basis as well without nomination as with it. We like a free, open choice, without any restriction whatever."

The following is from his review of Pennsylvania :

" The first official act recorded is the reading of a Commission of the Grand Mark Lodge of England, appointing M. E. Companion Charles E. Meyer, as its Representative ; thereupon, Companion Meyer was received and acknowledged as such.

" The question is, Who received him ?"

Answer, The Grand Chapter. We would explain. We did not receive him like a package of goods by express, but simply by vote of the Grand Chapter ; his commission was read, and he was received (declared) and acknowledged as such Representative.

From the conclusion of the Report we clip the following :

" It is quite common to submit an apology for apparent failures, and even when we are satisfied that we have done well.

" Not wishing to depart from the established custom (with some), we submit ours, not so much for the benefit of our Companions at home, who are familiar with the circumstances, but for those who are far remote, and judge only from what is presented.

" At the time of accepting the duty of preparing this report, we were apparently free from any responsibility, save that directly connected with the appointment.

" We flattered ourselves that we would have ample time for consideration and examination of all proceedings submitted, but in this we were doomed to disappointment.

" Three days subsequent to our appointment we were installed as Grand Master of Masons in the jurisdiction. Great and important responsibilities were thus assumed.

" It was expected that we would perform all faithfully and honestly ; and we honestly confess that we have tried, in each department, to meet the expectation of our Companions and brethren. The entire year has been exclusively devoted to Masonry. Thousands of miles have been traversed in the discharge of official duties ; and when it is known that no compensation is allowed or expected for any of the duties performed, our Companions from sister jurisdictions, we know, will not censure us for our many failures in this report. We

have hurriedly prepared it, examined nothing after it was written, made no corrections or alterations, and consequently it must of necessity be defective.

Companion JAMES R. BAYLEY, (re-elected,) *Grand High Priest.*

Companion R. P. EARHART, *Grand Secretary.*

1874.

The Fourteenth Annual Grand Convocation of Oregon, was held in the city of Portland, June 5, 1874. Companion JAMES R. BAYLEY, M. E. Grand High Priest, delivered an address from which we take the following :

"On March 12th, I visited Umpqua Chapter, and with the assistance of the Deputy Grand High Priest, together with a number of visiting Companions, I set them to work, granting them a dispensation to receive ten petitions and ballot for the same, which was done, and I conferred the degrees of Mark, Past, Most Excellent Master, and Royal Arch, upon the whole number before leaving them, that they might at all times have a quorum. Their members being scattered and a number of them living quite a distance from their Chapter, I thought it best to leave them thoroughly prepared with a quorum to do business at all times."

We regret the above announcement of the very free use of the dispensation, and think when you wholesale it out in that style (10 at one time) you will find that it will wear out in a hurry, attended with disaster, and will likely lead to the abrogation of the power of your successor in that direction, and we fraternally pray the day may be hastened. We also extract the following :

"While speaking of the work of this Chapter, I desire to state that one of the petitions received and balloted for, was from a Past Master of Oakland Lodge in this Jurisdiction, who, since his receiving that degree, has met with the misfortune of losing a leg, but he was considered as one of the best men in their Jurisdiction, and they were anxious that he should be permitted to receive the degrees, and I conferred them upon him, believing that there was no just reason why his misfortune should exclude him from said degrees, well knowing that there is a diversity of opinion upon this subject,

and hoping that it may be fully discussed by the various Committees on Foreign Correspondence so that it may come directly before the General Grand Chapter of the United States and there settled, that all may understand what is Masonic law in such cases."

We think Companion Corson ought to call a special meeting of the corps, in order to pay proper compliment to M. E. Companion Bayley for his very handsome mention of the reporter's influence. We personally believe the reports of the various Committees on Correspondence the very essence of interest, law, and judgment, of our different Grand Chapters. And until the M. E. Grand High Priests fully realize and recognize that fact, they will lose very much of their power and influence ; for them to go it alone, with such trumps at their disposal, is an oversight not easily accounted for.

We find the following resolution which was unanimously passed :

"Resolved, That a Special Committee be appointed to procure a suitable testimonial to be presented to R. E. Companion T. McF. Patton, for his faithful services as Chairman of Committee on Foreign Correspondence."

The testimonial resulted in a cane with solid gold head, appropriately inscribed, which was presented at the same Convocation. We feel gratified at the present to one of our number, and especially one who deserves it as richly as he.

The Report on Correspondence is again by Companion Patton,—Pennsylvania, we regret to say, not being of the number. From his report on Iowa, we quote :

"We are inclined to think the committee reasoned from false premises. They start out wrong, continue wrong, and conclude wrong. First the *man* was not a resident of Iowa. The Grand High Priest says 'he *removed* to the State of New York, and was there made a Mason.' It was fair to presume then, that he was a citizen of New York, or his application could not have been received. How long he was a citizen before he applied for initiation is not stated, nor does it appear what length of time intervened between the time he was raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason and that of his

application for the Chapter degrees, or even the renewal of his application the second and third times.

"Enough is known, however, to satisfy any one that he petitioned *three times* to the New York Chapter, and was thrice rejected, and accordingly the action of our Iowa Chapter in 'gobbling him up' when on a visit to his old home, especially after being informed as to his rejection, is unquestionably wrong, unmasonic, and not in accordance with usages and customs of the Royal Craft.

"It is a safe rule to follow, as enunciated by Companion Guilbert 'that rejection follows a Brother wherever he goes.' We endorse Companion Guilbert's action in the premises, as well as his recommendation, and think our Companions erred in not endorsing his action."

From his review of Massachusetts we quote as follows:

"Very few of our correspondents, who hold to the opinion that no legislation is necessary in relation to non-affiliation, have ever given their views as to the true status of a wilfully non-affiliated Mason. They declare their belief that it is unmasonic, and go no further.

"Companion Dadmun, in his review of New Hampshire, takes occasion to say 'that they have no legislation on this subject, and hope we never shall.'

"We are not among those who favor *coercion*, and compel them to affiliate against their own will and inclination. But we are among those who contend for a *distinction* between those who are true and those who are false; between those who do their duty and those who do not; between those who are ever ready and willing to respond to every good and noble deed, and those who are continually shirking from duty and hiding their light under a bushel; between those who are positive in their character, and those who are positively negative."

From his report of Michigan:

"We would like to know just the mode and manner of *expunging*. The word as defined, means to 'blot out,' 'to efface,' 'to obliterate,' &c. Now we ask if the order to *expunge* authorizes the Secretary to obliterate or blot out with a pen? We have grave doubts as to this prerogative, and think twenty, thirty or more Companions equally as capable of judging as to what is proper to go on the records as the High Priest."

From his views on Minnesota, we clip the following :

“ During our experience we find that ‘Loyal Masons will honestly differ.’ We are willing to accord to Companion Pierson the right to hold to the views herein expressed, but when almost every prominent jurist maintains that striking from the roll *does amount to something*, we must agree to disagree; for ‘he that is convinced against his will, is of the same opinion still.’ Our distinguished Companion asserts that nothing is lost except ‘*the privilege of voting*,’ and that the regulations made with reference to non-affiliates, are seldom enforced.

“ We cannot say how it is in Minnesota, but we speak advisedly when we say that the regulations are enforced with us, and with extraordinary good results.

“ We have very grave doubts if ‘ninety-nine out of every hundred’ would suffer their names to be dropped from the rolls, or allow suspension to ensue, rather than acknowledge their inability to pay. We hold that it does not degrade a Brother or Companion to state to his Brethren or Companions in Lodge or Chapter that he is unable to meet his dues. We say it is manly and honorable in him to acknowledge obedience to the law, and his inability to comply.

“ We have no desire to punish any one, or deprive them of a single right or privilege, ‘because misfortune has assailed him;’ far from it.

“ But as to those whom fortune *has* favored—those who are clamorous for *their* rights and privileges, who *talk* Masonry but never practice its precepts; never visit the sick or contribute to the relief of the poor and needy; those who never visit the Lodge except upon some festive occasion or public display, and when notified of the amount of their dues become indignant and think an insult has been offered. Such, we say emphatically, that we are in favor of dropping from the roll, and depriving them not only of the right to vote in their Lodge but all privileges, which would effectually debar them hereafter from preying upon the Masonic body corporate, at least until repentance ensued.”

From North Carolina we quote :

“ We always look with suspicion upon a person decorated with Masonic emblems, especially when they are of ponderous proportions, and worn on the lappel of the vest, on the fourth of July, at political Conventions, and on general training days. It shows conclusively that they failed to get their

money's worth when they took the degrees, or their heads were not copious enough to receive and retain what they did get. Moderation in all things."

Companion JAMES R. BAYLEY, (re-elected,) *M. E. Grand High Priest.*

Companion R. P. EARHART, (re-elected,) *Grand Secretary.*

SOUTH CAROLINA.

The Annual Grand Convocation of South Carolina was held in the city of Charleston, Feb. 10th, 1874, Companion Augustine T. Smythe, Deputy Grand High Priest, presiding. He delivered an address for the reason, as the following will show :

"It is with a sad heart I take up the duty which devolves upon me, of addressing you to-day as we assemble once more for annual council beneath the arch of our temple. Our meeting, looked forward to as a season of pleasant greeting and fraternal intercourse, is darkened with the shadow of a great sorrow, and our temple itself is hung with the solemn habiliments of mourning, instead of the usual garlands of festive and gladsome rejoicing.

"He who should have this day guided our councils, and presided over our deliberations, our Grand High Priest, James Birnie—is dead!

"How little we thought, as one year ago we called him by our unanimous voice to the leadership among us, and trusted that with his great heart, his cool, evenly-balanced mind, his ripe, mature judgment, he would have done great good for us,—that ere this meeting was held, ere we had heard one word of cheer and advice from his lips, we should be called to write his epitaph, to mourn his departure from our midst!

"James Birnie was an enthusiastic member of our Order. Of fine intellectual parts, with well-cultured mind, he devoted time and labor to make himself what he was, a *bright* Mason; and with his high moral character, his life of unstained purity, his high sense of honor and probity, he was more than that, he was a *true* Mason.

"And not only in our Order, but in his every day life, as he went in and out before the community in which he lived, he sustained the same character for uprightness, and rectitude in his dealings with his fellow men, until all were fain to say of him, *verily he is an honest man.*"

He recommences as follows :

"There is one other matter to which I would call your attention. The Grand Chapter is in the receipt during the year, of copies of the printed Proceedings of every Grand Chapter with which we are in correspondence. These are very valuable, and in most jurisdictions are carefully kept and bound. No such action has ever been had here, and the Proceedings are lying loose in the office of the Grand Secretaries. I understand that the Grand Lodge of South Carolina proposes putting up shelves in this building, and binding the Proceedings received by it, so as to form something of a Masonic library. I would, therefore, recommend that the Proceedings now on hand belonging to this Grand Chapter, be bound, and that if permission can be obtained from the Grand Lodge, they be also placed in this building, for the use of the Craft under proper restrictions. I would further recommend, that if our finances warrant, the leading text books and authorities on Capitular Masonry be purchased by the Grand Chapter for this library. The whole matter might be referred to a suitable committee, or the work done under the direction of the proper officer of the Grand Chapter, as may be most convenient."

We think it a move in the right direction.

The following was adopted as an amendment to Chapter 5, of their By-Laws :

"That hereafter, the Committee on Foreign Correspondence shall file their report with the Grand High Priest, thirty days before the Annual Convocation ; that the Grand High Priest shall refer the same to three members of the Grand Chapter, whose duty it shall be to report to the Grand Chapter at the Annual Convocation."

Companion J. E. Burke was elected Chairman of Committee on Foreign Correspondence, &c. We wish that was our practice ; we could tell you the name of *one* Companion who would not be a candidate.

The Report on Correspondence is by Companion Wilmot G. De Saussure, at least he was chairman, and the following gives an excellent idea of the report :

"Departing from the usual custom of commenting upon the decisions, and discussing the views expressed in other re-

ports on Foreign Correspondence, the Committee have sought to make this report merely a collection of the points of Masonic Law decided in other jurisdictions, and a brief statement of the meetings and general business of Sister Grand Chapters. After the interesting reports which have been hitherto submitted to this Grand Chapter, the Committee are conscious that the one now presented will appear very bald and meagre. It has, however, apparently been the desire of this Grand Chapter to economize in this particular, and the Committee have sought to carry out such desire."

We are always sorry to find reports of the above kind emanating from any Grand Chapter; because we think the critical opinions of the reporters are the very necessary appendages to give life, spirit, animation and *interest* to the Proceedings, and justly so. The faithful reporter sits down to read from cover to cover; his mind is trained to see quickly the salient points for either praise or censure, approval or condemnation. He marks them, and finally, not only gives the act, the reason or the argument, but also touches with his pen, and lo! it bristles all over with new meaning, making what, grouped closely together, and without such comment, mere commonplace, which would pass the casual reader without a moment's thought or attention,—a bright *morceau*, a lesson, something to think of, an education for those of our Companions who require a spur to look into things. And we fearlessly enunciate the above, inviting any one to the reports of Corson, of N. J.; Ogden, of N. Y.; Patton, of Oregon; Parvin, of Iowa; Gouley, of Missouri; Horner, of Louisiana; Drummond, of Maine, and others; for a full justification of our position.

TENNESSEE.

The Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter of Tennessee, was held in the city of Nashville, Nov. 5th, 1873.

Companion Jos. N. Anderson, Most Eminent Grand High Priest, presiding. The Grand High Priest Companion Jno. W. Paxton, was absent, but sent an address which was brief, and entirely local in its character.

The Report on Correspondence is rather a singular one; it

comprises five and a half pages printed matter ; one and three-quarters of which are taken up with the names of the Grand Chapters of the different jurisdictions. The Chairman of the Committee, Companion Jno. Frizzell, does not seem to be an ardent admirer of correspondence, because while he admits enjoyment in the perusal of reports, he denies, at least by inference, practical benefit. Now how singularly we differ ; our experience is, that practical benefit is the great leading point, enjoyment being a necessary attendant upon the said Practical Benefit. This is his conclusion :

" In the mass of printed matter which has been received preparatory to making this report, a very large proportion is comprised of the reports of Committees on Foreign Correspondence, the perusal of which has afforded us much enjoyment, and we should take pleasure in falling in with the fashion in such cases, and reviewing the Proceedings of each Grand Chapter separately, thus giving our report the usual length, if not the interest, for which these reports are generally remarkable, did we not feel that our own enjoyment was not the proper guide in such matters, but rather the practical benefit to be derived by those for whom this work is performed.

" In common with the Companions of this jurisdiction, as well as those who had the pleasure of reading his reports, we express regret that our predecessor, Companion George S. Blackie, has removed to another jurisdiction, and that we are thus deprived of his valuable labor in this department, yielding, as it always did, a rich harvest. May long life and prosperity attend him."

Companion JOSEPH M. ANDERSON, (elected,) *M. E. Grand High Priest.*

Companion JOHN FRIZZELL, (re-elected,) *Grand Secretary.*

VERMONT.

The Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter of Vermont, was held in the city of Burlington, Vermont, June 13th, 1873. Companion Jno. W. Clark, Deputy Grand High Priest, presiding. He delivered a brief address, from which we extract the following :

" We have assembled again, after the lapse of twelve short

months of joy and sorrow, smiles and tears, pleasure and pain, to offer up our heartfelt thanks to the Supreme Grand Architect of the Universe, that His Mercy, which endureth forever, has spared us the sorrow, the grief, and the death, which has been the lot of so many ; that His mercy has permitted us to come together around our Sacred Altar in this beautiful city and quiet retreat, to exchange greetings ; to grasp warm hands in friendship and brotherly love ; to review the labors of our subordinate organizations ; to render an account of our proceedings for the past year ; to devise means whereby the errors of the past may be mended so that the least possible evil may come, and avoid in the future the things which the light of reason and experience has shown us were not approved by the Grand Overseer who never slumbers nor sleeps, and who knows us and our works which do follow us ; who has given us to know that by our acts, and not by our professions, we shall be judged ; that by our acts we shall be known ; that if our ways please the Lord, He will make even our enemies to be at peace with us. Also, to legislate for the best interests of the Craft in our jurisdiction.”

We give the Companion credit for offering the following. It would seem to us to be necessary down in that region :

“ The Committee on Foreign Correspondence not being in readiness to report, and it being understood that it was nearly complete and prepared by Companion Henry Clarke, it was voted to accept it, and the Grand Secretary was instructed to procure and publish it with the Proceedings.

“ On motion of Companion H. Clark, it was voted that hereafter the Report of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence be printed before the Annual Convocation.”

The following shows the necessity again :

“ The Report on Foreign Correspondence (which was expected of Companion Henry Clark, Chairman of the Committee) has not been furnished, and I am obliged to send out the Proceedings without it.

W. H. S. WHITCOMB,

Grand Secretary.”

Companion JOHN W. CLARKE, (elected,) *Grand High Priest.*

Companion W. H. S. WHITCOMB, *Grand Secretary.*

VIRGINIA.

The Annual Grand Convocation was held in the city of Richmond, December 11, 1873, Companion Robt. E. Withers Grand High Priest. The following we quote from his address:

"I am pleased to inform the Grand Chapter that all complications growing out of the relations of Adoniram Royal Arch Chapter, No. 34, to the Grand Chapters of Virginia and West Virginia, have been happily removed. I was officially informed in August last, that said Chapter had been received into the Grand Chapter of West Virginia, thus relieving us of all apprehension of any possible difficulty or complication with our sister Grand Chapter—another example of the wisdom of that moderation in council, and fraternity of feeling, which has uniformly marked the action of each Grand Chapter in connection with this delicate subject."

Also the following:

"Only one case has been submitted for decision of sufficient importance to require notice at our hands: A Brother was regularly elected to receive the Royal Arch Degree, in the year 1861, and actually received the Degrees of Mark and Past Master—the war coming on, prevented the Convocations of the Chapter for some years, but recently the Brother has made application for the remaining degrees. *Query:*

"1st. Can the degrees be conferred by virtue of his previous election? or,

"2d. Should application be made as if he had never before petitioned?

"Held—that the first election was valid—that he should petition for the remaining degrees only, and that the Chapter should decide whether the applicant should be submitted to the ordeal of a ballot, in consequence of the length of time which had elapsed."

The Report on Correspondence is by Companion W. B. Isaacs, and he takes the novel method of reporting them just as they come to hand, commencing with Wisconsin. Here is what he says of the new style:

"Heretofore we have endeavored to anticipate the Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter, that our views and sentiments might go forth having the sanction of the Grand Body,

but the various and manifold changes and chances of this mortal life, have given us so many hatchets to sharpen, that we have had no time to grind axes for the Grand Chapter, nor anybody else. The printer's devil is after us now with his forked stick, and as he invariably imparts his kindly disposition to anything and everything which he touches, this introduction to our discourse is necessary, to relieve the Grand Chapter of any heresies we may promulgate, and to say, that notwithstanding the 'good we would do we cannot, and the evil we would not do that we do,' we 'assume the responsibilities.' We are getting tired of the regular alphabetical arrangement of the reports. Just here we would say to our co-laborers, that we, like the rest of you, on taking up a Proceeding, turn to see what you say about us first, instead of doing as we ought to do, read the pamphlet through very carefully before getting undeservedly riled over the left, or deservedly puffed up over the right-handed compliments that are paid us, and occasionally discover, to our mortification, the evident want of a realization on the part of some that the writer may possibly have something else to do than to cull the pretty sayings with which their reports abound. Let us try the new arrangement, and take them hap-hazard. So, come up."

From his Report of Wisconsin we take the following, and it is sound :

"There is good sound Masonic sense in that sentence. What jurisdiction has not suffered, more or less, from hastily-made Masons? Generally, *dispensation* Masons are of those who have lived within the sound of the gavel from the period of their majority, and when about to travel, or desire to join in some grand festivity, their 'burning zeal to do good,' induce them to apply for the rights and benefits of the Order. The officers believing them to be 'good fellows,' succumb to the pressure, and in ninety-nine times out of an hundred, introduce drones into the Masonic hive."

We were very much pained in reading the Report on Connecticut to find that a feeling had been engendered not at all pleasant, nor at all desirable, and which we hope the good feeling of the two Companions will prompt them to harmonize. We deprecate personalities in the Reports on Correspondence and feel sure the corps will bear us out in the assertion that they are not intended, not in place, nor proper to be

resorted to, under any circumstances. And we hope mutual apology will follow and all be friends again. The following is his conclusion :

“ We are between two fires—the one in the rear, the devil pushing us onward, and the one in front, saying stop. We obey the latter with alacrity, and offer our humble apology to the Grand Chapter of Virginia, for the unusual length of our report. It could be abbreviated to suit their general views, but only by a revision. We have noticed all the Proceedings which have been placed on our table, and we clasp hands with all the reporters across the bloody chasm. We miss many familiar faces, but we have written enough, and what is written was at detached moments, as they could be stolen from our daily vocation. If we havn’t said enough, we are sorry for it—if we have said too much, we are sorry for it—if we have hurt anybody’s feelings, we are sorry for it. Such as it is, it goes forth, and may joy go with it.

Respectfully and fraternally submitted.”

Companion B. M. HARRIS, (re-elected,) *M. E. Grand High Priest.*

Companion JNO. DOVE, (re-elected,) *Grand Secretary.*

WEST VIRGINIA.

The Second Annual Grand Communication was held in the city of Wheeling, Nov. 14th, 1872, Companion Thomas H. Logan, presiding. The following we take from his address, and as the difficulty has been harmoniously arranged, it gives additional interest :

“ At the time of the formation of the Grand Chapter of West Virginia, there were within the limits of this State two Chapters working under dispensation from the Grand Chapter of Virginia ; one at Fairmont, Marion county, styled Orient Chapter, and one at Clarksburg, Harrison county, styled Adoniram Chapter. These dispensations were returned to the body from which they emanated, and the records being found correct and the proceedings had under the dispensation proving satisfactory, in each case a resolution was adopted by the Grand Chapter of Virginia, recommending to the Grand Council of the Grand Chapter of West Virginia the issuance of a Charter for the permanent establishment of the Chapters

mentioned. A charter was accordingly issued to Orient Chapter No. 9, appointing K. D. Walker, High Priest, Charles M. Shinn, King, and Henry Pride, Scribe, and the Chapter was soon after duly constituted and its officers installed. The officers of Adoniram Chapter were informed of the action of the Grand Chapter of Virginia, and of the readiness of this Grand Council to issue a charter in accordance with the recommendation. We were soon after informed that the Companions at Clarksburg did not desire to receive a charter from the Grand Chapter of West Virginia, and that they preferred to be chartered by and remain subordinate to the Grand Chapter of Virginia, and after the lapse of a few weeks information was received that, in compliance with this desire on the part of Adoniram Chapter, a charter had been issued by the Grand Council of the Grand Chapter of Virginia, and Adoniram Chapter had been formally placed upon the roll as a subordinate of that Grand Chapter.

"In view of the express action had by the Grand Chapter of Virginia at its Grand Annual Convocation in relation to this matter; and remembering also the further fact that on page 268, of the Methodical Digest which has been adopted for the government of that Grand Chapter as well as of our own, is found this provision:

"7. No Charter or Dispensation to constitute a Chapter shall be granted to any number of Royal Arch Masons residing in any other State where a Grand Chapter adopting this principle is held, unless such Grand Chapter shall furnish the petitioners with a written acquiescence properly authenticated.'

"Remembering these things, our first impression was that the issuance of the charter of Adoniram Chapter was an act of inadvertence, and that it would be promptly recalled as soon as attention had been called to the mistake. Accordingly a letter was addressed to R. E. Grand Secretary Dove, calling attention to the fact and requesting a withdrawal of the charter in question. This was answered by M. E. Robert E. Withers, Grand High Priest, who in a very courteous and fraternal manner defended the issuance of the charter in question and declined to revoke it, arguing that the Grand Chapter of Virginia had a right to complete its unfinished work and that the issuance of a dispensation vested in the Grand body, the right to issue a charter if it is so desired; that the Grand Chapter of Virginia had waived this right and recommended the chartering of Adoniram Chapter by the Grand

Chapter of West Virginia, solely because this was understood at the time to be the desire of the members of Adoniram Chapter; and that when he learned that the Companions at Clarksburg did not desire to become subordinate to the Grand Chapter of West Virginia and had unanimously requested to be retained upon the Virginia roll, he had directed the issuance of a charter and felt assured that the Grand Chapter of Virginia 'will not consent to drive these Companions from our (her) sanctuary and compel them to take up their abode elsewhere.'

"Being profoundly desirous of preserving, by all reasonable means, that amity and concord which up to this time had existed between the Grand Chapter of Virginia and our own, and believing also that the matter complained of would soon adjust itself by the voluntary act of Adoniram Chapter, no further correspondence was had touching this subject.

"It seems to me, Companions, that in this case, owing to the peculiar relations which we bear to the Grand Chapter of Virginia, to which we are bound by so many pleasant memories, there is, for the present at least, wisdom in waiting. I take occasion to say here, however, that we expressly disclaim any surrender of jurisdictional right, and our treatment of this case must not be regarded as a precedent that should influence the settlement of any future controversy in which the Grand Chapter of West Virginia may be involved."

Five charters were authorized to be issued for New Chapters at this Communication, showing that our Companions are in earnest in their work:

1873.

The Third Annual Grand Convocation was held in the city of Wheeling, November 13, 1873. Companion Thomas H. Logan, Grand High Priest. The following we take from the address of the Grand High Priest on the occasion of the session:

"A few of the Grand Chapters, while kindly inclined towards us, have hesitated in giving us fraternal recognition because of our failure thus far to recognize the General Grand Chapter of the United States. We regret that this should be a cause of distrust or possible alienation. In justice to our Grand Chapter I may say that the severance of long existing

relations and the formation of new ones are matters of no little importance, and should be undertaken only after full consideration. As yet we have not been able fully to adjust our domestic affairs and place our Grand Chapter in complete working order, and we may therefore be excused for our failure to devote much attention to matters beyond our immediate domain. Adhesion to the Grand Chapter of the United States will render necessary some material changes in our regulations and ritual. Hasty action might produce confusion and embarrassment. Feeling the want myself of more information upon the subject, I forbear to make to you any recommendation further than to urge upon you individually the propriety of examining the question for yourselves, so that at a more convenient season you may be able to reach an intelligent conclusion. In the meantime we hope our friends in other jurisdictions will possess their souls in patience and will not fluster our inexperience by their too ardent appeals on one side or the other."

As one of the jurisdictions on the other side, we promise you complete immunity from persuasion on either side, so far as we are concerned. Our views upon that subject are that every Grand Chapter should decide that question for themselves, and although some of the Grand Chapters who are a constituent part of that body are ready to pronounce *anathema* upon any other Grand Chapter who think differently, yet the great good sense of the major part will be sure to keep the balance even. We are sure no harm will come to you if you decide to cast your lot with that Body from such action. And we are sure if you decide the other way—well, you must please yourself; we will think just as much of you one way as the other.

The Report on Correspondence is made up of the notices given of West Virginia as the following will show:

"As stated in the beginning of this report, we have only aimed to collect and set forth, for the information of our Companions of the Grand Chapter of West Virginia, the words of recognition or comment with which the formation of our new Grand Chapter has been greeted in the several Grand Chapters of other States. In the examination of the published proceedings with whose perusal we have been

favored, we have found many Masonic and literary gems which we would gladly display before you but for the self-imposed limitation with which we set out to make this review. We have lingered long and lovingly over the several reports on Foreign Correspondence which it has been our privilege to pursue, and have been pleased by the wit of Corson, the wisdom of Dadmun and of Pillans and Lewis and all the rest who are equally entitled to mention, and we have experienced some difficulty in saying to ourselves 'Hands off.' Should we have an opportunity of preparing for your inspection another report relative to the doings and sayings in our sister Grand Chapters, we will take pleasure in copying some of the sayings of these sages of the Royal Arts.

"To the Grand Chapters which have thus far extended to the Grand Chapter of West Virginia cordial and fraternal recognition (and these embrace by far the greater number of the Grand Chapters of the United States), we return, in your behalf, most honest thanks, and we doubt not that it will be the aim of the Grand Chapter of West Virginia to prove, by constant care, its worthiness of the high companionship in which it takes a place."

The Proceedings just examined show us that West Virginia is safely and properly launched, but the trial trip discloses everything in perfect order, complete in details, sound and staunch. We predict for her a brilliant future.

Companion THOMAS H. LOGAN, (re-elected,) *Grand High Priest.*

Companion ODELL S. LONG, (re-elected,) *Grand Secretary.*

WISCONSIN.

The Annual Grand Convocation was held in the city of Milwaukee, Tuesday, Feb. 17th, 1874, Companion C. F. G. Collins, M. E. Grand High Priest, presiding. The following from his address is gratifying :

"I congratulate you upon the fact that there seems to be occasion for but little, if any legislation, as it certainly evidences a condition of harmony and prosperity which cannot but be highly satisfactory to us all.

"From our Subordinate Chapters we have almost without exception the report of substantial, healthy progress, of *good*

work, *well* done, and a condition of fraternal harmony most commendable. Let us all strive earnestly for a continuance of this by endeavoring to follow more closely the teachings of our institution, not only with our lips but in our lives, and by marking our legislation in this Grand Body with the highest wisdom we can command, having in view only the best interests of the Royal Craft."

The Report on Correspondence was again by Companion J. P. C. Cottrill, and reviews the Proceedings of Thirty-five Grand Chapters,—Pennsylvania for 1873 being among the number.

The introduction is soothing, as will be seen by the following extract:

"Your Committee have attentively read these thirty-five volumes; and having returned from their annual excursion through these flower-gardens and fertile fields of Masonic light and knowledge, they present to the Companions of this jurisdiction the gems, bouquets and treasures which they have gathered and garnered during their travels—and, as our Scottish Companions say, they add their remarks and comments thereanent."

From his resume of Canada, we take the following:

"One case only came before the Grievance Committee, who, thinking that the Companion had been sufficiently punished, recommended his restoration to Royal Arch privileges, and it was so ordered. The question of recognizing other rites, degrees, &c., which has been pending here since 1871, was disposed of by a vote that it was not desirable to extend recognition to any other Orders than those at present recognized; and which the address of the Grand Z. states to be the orders of Knights Templar and Knights of Malta.

"We don't see what a Grand Chapter has to do even with them; or how, as a Grand Chapter it can know that they even exist. One would suppose that on attaining *the summit* of ancient Craft Masonry, the weary sojourner might well sit down and rest, and fain believe that there were at least no more summits either to climb or to aspire to."

Our idea exactly.

We quote the following for the benefit of the General Grand Chapter :

" The old *unpleasantness*, as our Companion styles it, with Louisiana, is reported as wiped out, at which all may well rejoice. The subscriber is taken on a double charge of irreverence—one to this Grand Body and the other, to our horror and surprise, to the General Grand Chapter. Our remark as to the latter, that its action on the substitute question was a 'cowardly compromise,' while it is said to be straightforward and to the point (does our Companion agree with us ?), is yet said to be in the highest degree reprehensible, *from our stand-point*. Does this mean that it is not reprehensible considered from the District stand-point ? Should we be termed reprehensible when we are straightforward and write to the point, because we happen to tell the truth ? and impliedly are concurred in by the very Companion who thus criticises us ? And may not our friend mean that that is reprehensible in us because we have ever been a warm supporter of the parent body, which would not be so with the District Companions, because their habit generally has been to decry its usefulness, even though it be their mother.

" We cannot take back the opinion we expressed. Substitutes were decided to be permissible, but their use was discouraged. Was not this a compromise, and was it not in plain truth cowardly ? A preacher who should merely advise against sin, and who should agree in advance to tolerate it, would hardly be accepted as a correct expounder of moral law. And the General Grand Chapter did both of these things. We find here no middle ground. Beethoven, Handel, Haydn and Mozart, aided even by Dan. Bryant and Sam. Sharpley, can find no place for a *quarter* tone between the open note and the semi-tone."

The following we clip from his report on Pennsylvania, and assure our Companion we think it well deserved :

" A very lengthy address was then delivered by the newly installed Grand High Priest, Companion Meyer. American Masonry has no more zealous, or more indefatigable workman than he. He is deservedly honored by his Companions of Pennsylvania, and is respected wherever known. He reports many official visitations, and that he had disengaged all expenditures for his personal entertainment, preferring a welcome in the close-tiled Chapter to that of the impossible-to-be-tiled (as he expresses it) public banquet hall."

The following is his conclusion :

“ Thus, Companions, we reach the conclusion, not glad even that we can lay the pen down and need write no more. It is with pleasure that we can assure our Companions that at no time during our knowledge of the Institution, has it been more prosperous or more harmonious than at the present. And so may it ever continue to be ! ”

GRAND MARK MASTER MASONS LODGE OF ENGLAND AND WALES.

We have received with interest the Proceedings of the Grand Mark Lodge of England, for half-yearly Communication, December 2, 1873, which embraces statement of accounts, names of Provinces and Provincial Grand Masters, Representatives, &c., and Roll of Lodges.

The following will show their method of electing officers, and, in our opinion, it would be difficult to find anything more unmasonic as we understand the subject, in the whole line of practices anywhere. We, of course, approach the subject of criticisms of the doings of our English cousins and Brothers with diffidence, fully realizing the fact, that they were a great country before we were born, still, when we reflect that the very air of the Lodge-room impresses us with the fact of our even and exact equality, it sounds strange (almost indelicate), for announcements like the following :

“ Brother George Lambert, P. G. S. D.: I rise to propose that our Brother, Lord Percy, be re-elected to the high position which he has now filled for a year past. That nobleman is well known to all of you, Brethren, for the very successful way in which he has discharged his duties, and for the kindness and urbanity which have always distinguished him, and which have been the means of obtaining for him the respect and affection of all with whom he comes in contact. He has very much graced the office he holds, and I have much pleasure in moving his re-election.

“ Brother I. J. Hooper Wilkins, P. G. Sted. Br. : I assure you it gives me much pleasure to second the nomination of Brother Earl Percy to the post of Grand Mark Master Mason of England and Wales for the ensuing year. It must be a mat-

ter of great regret to every Mark Mason that Earl Percy was unable to attend to his duties when he was first elected ; but it was a source of infinite congratulation that he shortly so far recovered from the illness under which he labored as to be enabled to discharge the duties incumbent on him. I believe we could not have a better Grand Master than Earl Percy, and it is with that faith in his abilities that I take upon myself to second his nomination.

“ Brother James Stevens, P. G. J. O. : I rise to nominate Brother J. R. Stebbing for re-election as Grand Treasurer. He has discharged his duties with the greatest satisfaction to Grand Lodge, and I have no doubt it will give a great deal of pleasure to all those who are present, as well as to those who are absent, to hear that he has been re-nominated.

“ Brother S. Rosenthal, P. G. D. C. : I beg to second it. Our present Treasurer has done his duty well. He takes very great care of our funds, and because I have seen he does so, I second his nomination by my Brother Stevens.”

The following we do not fully understand, and regret the absence of any Committee on Correspondence to enlighten us. And here we would take occasion to recommend our Companion G. H. P. of Georgia, to read carefully the Proceedings of the Grand Mark Lodge of England, to find an utter refutation of his idea that Committee on Correspondence were useless. Here he will find much to interest, more to puzzle, and still more that he cannot fully understand, and no way to find out except by private correspondence. Won’t our friends, Brothers and Companions across the water take pity, and appoint a committee the same as our Grand Bodies have, that we may all be benefited :

“ Bro. James Stevens, P. G. J. O., moved ‘ That the fee to Grand Lodge for Certificate and Registration of every Brother advanced in a Private Lodge be increased from 8s. 6d. to 10s. 6d.’ This recommendation of the Board had been made after careful consideration, and recognition of the great increase that had taken place in the number of Mark Masons, and the ability of the Lodges to pay the proposed increase. The income of Grand Lodge had certainly thereby become greater, but at the same time Grand Lodge’s expenses were increasing. The manner in which the work of Grand Lodge was performed had given the greatest satisfaction ; but there was a

necessity for increased office accommodation to carry the work out thoroughly and efficiently. It was necessary that there should be greater accommodation for the purpose of retaining the Order in the high position which they had long been seeking, and had at length attained, and which he trusted they would never recede from. He had had some little experience in regard to private Lodges, and he could state from his own knowledge that the increase would not be objectionable to members of the Craft Degree desirous of joining the Mark Degree, and it was not likely to stand in the way of Brethren who wished to become Mark Masters.

"Bro. the Rev. G. R. Portal, P.G.M., said perhaps this would be better; but he thought, as there was so large a Grand Lodge present, it would be a good opportunity for making the Brethren acquainted with the relative charges made by this Grand Lodge and the other Masonic Grand Bodies. At present the fee charged by this Grand Lodge was 8s. 6d.; in the Craft, it was £1 7s. 6d.; Royal Arch, 15s.; Knights Templar, £1 1s.; and 18 Degree, £1 1s. It was a great object with Grand Mark Lodge to get an increase in its income of £100 a year, which it would get if the proposed increase in the fees were agreed to, so as in time to get a house of their own; if it were referred back to the Board for reconsideration, and for the further opinion of all the Lodges under Grand Lodge Banner, he was afraid that those private Lodges would be inclined to take their own individual view of the case, and consult their own private interests rather than the interests of the general body of Mark Masons. Entertaining that view, he would propose that a modification should be made in the proposition, and that, instead of making the fee 10s. 6d., it should be 10s., which he did not think would be objected to, coming, as it did, only once in a man's life."

CONCLUSION.

We now submit the result of our labors to, we trust, a lenient auditory, in the earnest hope that we may receive our share of the good nature and favor of our friends, feeling that we really require all the help that can be consistently accorded. We approached the preparation of the foregoing report with

hesitancy, and have finished it without satisfaction. Still we do not feel that any Royal Arch Mason can, with credit, shirk a responsibility, and when distinguished honor is added to duty in being selected, there is a decided incentive to work the matter creditably. We may be thought to personally attach too much importance to reports generally, but if our Companions of this and indeed of all other jurisdictions will give the time necessary and the care required to a proper understanding of the workings of the Grand Chapters of this world, they will find that those jurisdictions who have selected bright intellects and fluent writers, have established the fame of those Grand Chapters far, *far* beyond others who have not been so fortunate. And in the future when we may be permitted to quietly enjoy the reports of our own jurisdiction and such others as we may be able to coax our Companion Chips to send us from time to time, we expect to indulge in them with a zest only equaled by an ardent student who devotes his life to an idea, and is willing to die for it. We are gratified at being able to report the steady and healthful increase of Royal Arch Masonry throughout the world, and if we are permitted to read the "signs of the times" aright, we are simply on the threshold of our success, and how devoutly may we aspire "so mote it be!" for, to our mind, success in our Institution means higher civilization, progress in the cause of humanity, and increased happiness in many families. We hold, after many years' experience, that no man can partake of the rights and ceremonies, the privileges and mysteries of our Institution and not be a better man. So let us hope the tidal-wave may set in our favor strong, and continue its rolling until the end of time.

WILLIAM J. KELLY,

Chairman.

REPRESENTATIVES

OF THE

GRAND HOLY ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER OF PENNSYLVANIA

NEAR OTHER GRAND CHAPTERS.

Comp. BATCHELDER, near Grand Chapter of LOUISIANA.

“	JOHN WOLVERTON,	“	“	“	“	NEW JERSEY.
“	JOHN DAGGETT,	“	“	“	“	MISSOURI.
“	JAMES R. BAILEY,	“	“	“	“	OREGON.
“	JOHN. W. SIMONS,	“	“	“	“	NEW YORK.
“	GEORGE W. JENKINS,	“	“	“	“	TENNESSEE.
“	MARQUIS F. KING,	“	“	“	“	MAINE.
“	EDWARD T. SHULTZ,	“	“	“	“	MARYLAND.
“	ISAAC L. JOHNSON,	“	“	“	“	DIST. OF COL.
“	WILLIAM H. LAMBERT,	“	“	“	“	VIRGINIA.
“	Wm. J. HUGHAN,	Grand Mark Lodge,				ENGLAND.

REPRESENTATIVES

OF OTHER GRAND CHAPTERS

NEAR THE GRAND CHAPTER OF PENNSYLVANIA.

Comp. MICHAEL NISBET, from Grand Chapter of OREGON.

“	“	“	“	“	“	NOVA SCOTIA.
“	SAMUEL C. PERKINS,	“	“	“	“	LOUISIANA.
“	ALFRED R. POTTER,	“	“	“	“	NEW YORK.
“	JOHN L. YOUNG,	“	“	“	“	MAINE.
“	ANDREW ROBENO, JR.,	“	“	“	“	MARYLAND.
“	HORACE FRITZ,	“	“	“	“	ILLINOIS.
“	DAVID B. TAYLOR,	“	“	“	“	DIST. OF COL.
“	████████████████████	“	“	“	“	VIRGINIA.
“	CHAS. E. MEYER,	Grand Mark Lodge,				ENGLAND.

STATISTICS OF SUBORDINATE CHAPTERS AND LODGES
UNDER JURISDICTION OF
GRAND CHAPTER OF PENNSYLVANIA.
DECEMBER 27, 1874.

CHAPTERS.

Jerusalem Chapter, No. 3.—Philadelphia. Fourth Monday.
Perseverance Chapter, No. 21.—Harrisburg. First Monday.
Chapter, No. 43.—Lancaster. Fourth Wednesday.
Harmony Chapter, No. 52.—Philadelphia. First Friday.
Columbia Chapter, No. 91.—Philadelphia. Third Wednesday.
Washington Chapter, No. 150.—Washington. Second Tuesday.
Reading Chapter, No. 152.—Reading. Second Monday.
Schuylkill Chapter, No. 159.—Minersville. Thursday on or before Full Moon.
Union Chapter, No. 161.—Towanda. First Wednesday after Full Moon and two weeks after.
Zerubbabel Chapter, No. 162.—Pittsburg. First Tuesday.
Lafayette Chapter, No. 163.—Lock Haven. Thursday after Full Moon.
Brownsville Chapter, No. 164.—Brownsville. Second Tuesday.
Union Chapter, No. 165.—Uniontown.
Mt. Moriah Chapter, No. 166.—Hollidaysburg. Third Tuesday.
Eureka Chapter, No. 167.—Rochester. Wednesday after Friday on or before Full Moon.
Philadelphia Chapter, No. 169.—Philadelphia. Third Monday.
Delta Chapter, No. 170.—New Castle. Monday on or before Full Moon.
St. John's Chapter, No. 171.—Carlisle. First Thursday.
Temple Chapter, No. 172.—Tunkhannock. Monday after Full Moon.
Easton Chapter, No. 173.—Easton. Fourth Monday.

Northumberland Chapter, No. 174.—Sunbury. Tuesday before Full Moon.

Keystone Chapter, No. 175.—Philadelphia. Fourth Thursday.

George Washington Chapter, No. 176.—Chambersburg. Third Monday.

Tamaqua Chapter, 177.—Tamaqua. Friday after Full Moon.

Catawissa Chapter, No. 178.—Catawissa. Wednesday on or before Full Moon.

Eureka Chapter, No. 179.—Carbondale. Wednesday after Full Moon.

Warren Chapter, No. 180.—Montrose. Thursday on or before Full Moon.

Lilly Chapter, No. 181.—Mauch Chunk. Third Thursday.

Skekinah Chapter, No. 182.—Wilkesbarre. Third Tuesday.

Oriental Chapter, No. 183.—Philadelphia. Third Thursday.

Lackawanna Chapter, No. 185.—Scranton. Second Tuesday.

Lewistown Chapter, No. 186.—Lewistown. Third Tuesday.

Oriental Chapter, No. 187.—Conneautville. First and Third Fridays.

Mountain Chapter, No. 189.—Altoona. First Thursday.

Norristown Chapter, No. 190.—Norristown. Second Monday.

Solomon Chapter, No. 191.—Meadville. First Tuesday.

Urania Chapter, No. 192.—Greensburg. Fourth Tuesday.

Duquesne Chapter, No. 193.—Pittsburg. Fourth Tuesday.

Tioga Chapter, No. 194.—Wellsboro. Thursday on or before Full Moon.

Portage Chapter, No. 195.—Johnstown. Fourth Tuesday,

Mountain City Chapter, No. 196.—Pottsville. Monday after Full Moon.

Weidle Chapter, No. 197.—Lebanon. Second Tuesday.

Phœnix Chapter, No. 198.—Phœnixville. Saturday after Full Moon.

Howell Chapter, No. 199.—York. Second Wednesday.

Columbus Chapter, No. 200.—Corry. Thursday on or before Full Moon.

Standing Stone Chapter, No. 201.—Huntingdon. First Tuesday.

Howell Chapter, No. 202.—West Chester. First Monday after Full Moon.

Allen Chapter, No. 203.—Allentown. Monday on or before Full Moon.

Anthony Wayne Chapter, No. 204.—Honesdale. Tuesday succeeding Full Moon.

Factoryville Chapter, No. 205.—Factoryville. Wednesday on or before Full Moon.

Harmony Chapter, No. 206.—New Brighton. First Thursday.

Aaron Chapter, No. 207.—Titusville. Third Friday.

Germantown Chapter, No. 208.—Germantown. Fourth Monday.

Samuel C. Perkins Chapter, No. 209.—Mechanicsburg. Second Monday.

Great Bend Chapter, No. 210.—Great Bend. Thursday on or before Full Moon.

Venango Chapter, No. 211.—Franklin. Second Thursday.

Mound Chapter, No. 212.—Greenville. Second and Fourth Mondays.

Girard Chapter, No. 213.—Girard. Second and Fourth Fridays.

Valley Chapter, No. 214.—Plymouth. Friday on or before Full Moon.

Temple Chapter, No. 215.—Erie. First Monday.

Zinzendorf Chapter, No. 216.—Bethlehem. Second Monday.

Alleghany Chapter, No. 217.—Alleghany. First Friday.

Bloomsburg Chapter, No. 218.—Bloomsburg. First Wednesday.

Griscom Chapter, No. 219.—Ashland. Third Thursday.

Fort Washington Chapter, No. 220.—Fort Washington. Thursday before Full Moon.

Tremont Chapter, No. 221.—Tremont. First Monday after Full Moon.

Lycoming Chapter, No. 222.—Williamsport. Second Tuesday.

Oxford Chapter, No. 223.—Oxford. Wednesday after Full Moon.

Corinthian Chapter, No. 224.—Columbia. Second Tuesday.

Jefferson Chapter, No. 225.—Brookville. First Wednesday after Second Monday.

Siloam Chapter, No. 226.—Frankford. Third Wednesday.

Emporium Chapter, No. 227.—Emporium. First and Third Wednesdays.

Clearfield Chapter, No. 228.—Clearfield. Fourth Wednesday.

Newtown Chapter, No. 229.—Newtown. Wednesday after Full Moon.

Elk Chapter, No. 230.—Ridgway. Third Tuesday.

Bristol Chapter, No. 231.—Bristol. Saturday after Full Moon.

St. John Chapter, No. 232.—Philadelphia. First Tuesday.

Kensington Chapter, No. 233.—Kensington. Philadelphia City. Fourth Monday.

Media Chapter, No. 234.—Media. Tuesday after Full Moon.

Occidental Chapter, No. 235.—Warren. First and Third Mondays.

Oil City Chapter, No. 236.—Oil City. Second and Fourth Thursdays.

Excelsior Chapter, No. 237.—Reading. Third Wednesday.

Newport Chapter, No. 238.—Newport. Monday preceding the Tuesday before Full Moon.

Danville Chapter, No. 239.—Danville. First Monday.

Palestine Chapter, No. 240.—Philadelphia. Second Friday.

Bellefonte Chapter, No. 241. — Bellefonte. Thursday preceding Second Friday.

Pittston Chapter, No. 242. — Pittston. Last Thursday.

Tristam B. Freeman Chapter, No. 243. — Kensington, Philadelphia City. First Monday.

Norman Chapter, No. 244. — Sharon. Fourth Monday.

Abington Chapter, No. 245. — Jenkintown. Tuesday after Full Moon.

Warrior Run Chapter, No. 246. — Watsontown, Northumberland Co.

Kittanning Chapter, No. 247. — Kittanning, Armstrong Co.

Temple Chapter, No. 248. — Philadelphia. Third Tuesday.

Monongahela City Chapter, No. 249. — Monongahela City, Alleghany Co.

Corinthian Chapter, No. 250. — Philadelphia. Third Friday.

Signet Chapter, No. 251. — Philadelphia. Fourth Tuesday.

Mizpah Chapter, No. 252. — Mahanoy City, Schuylkill Co.

MARK LODGES.

Columbia Mark Lodge, No. 91. — Philadelphia. Second Monday.

Girard Mark Lodge, No. 214. — Philadelphia. Second Tuesday.

Excelsior Mark Lodge, No. 216. — Philadelphia. Third Tuesday.

OFFICERS
OF
GRAND HOLY ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER
OF
PENNSYLVANIA.
1875.

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" GEORGE GRISCOM, " EDWIN G. MARTIN.

THE ANNUAL GRAND COMMUNICATION

Is held on St. John the Evangelist's Day, December 27, annually.

QUARTERLY GRAND COMMUNICATIONS

Are held on the First Thursday of February, May, August, and
November.





